The National

Future Farmer

December/January 1979-80

Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America

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A Word With The Editor

What's your energy action? That subject is getting a lot of discussion by FFA groups these days and the editors would like for you to tell us about it.

This emphasis on energy started when the State FFA Presidents met with President Carter last summer at the White House. At that time President Carter said: ". . . I am asking every FFA chapter in this country to get involved in this basic question of energy conservation and production tied intimately with that of food, in conserving energy and in finding new ways to use it more efficiently."

The President further stated that he would give recognition to the one FFA chapter in the Nation that does the most outstanding job in carrying out this response to the energy crisis.

This activity has become known as *The President's Challenge*. A brochure was sent to all FFA chapters in September and information regarding the challenge also appeared in the October-November issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. A presentation at the National FFA Convention also dealt with the subject.

Six areas have been identified for energy action:

1. Increasing energy efficiency in crop and livestock production.
2. Increasing energy efficiency in agricultural processing and marketing.
3. Increasing energy conservation in greenhouse and nursery operations.
4. Reducing home energy and highway fuel consumption.
5. Reducing school, business, factory and community building energy consumption.
6. Increasing general energy conservation awareness.

The first step for your chapter is to accept the challenge. You do this by completing the form in the brochure mailed your chapter recently and mailing it to *The President's Challenge*, c/o National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

We would like to know here at the magazine, too. Summarize what your chapter is doing and mail it to Energy Action, *The National FUTURE FARMER*, P.O. Box 15130, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. Include a picture of your major activity if possible. Some of the best ideas will be printed in a future issue as an idea exchange effort to help other chapters get their *Presidential Challenge* going. It will also help publicize what your chapter is doing about the energy problem.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover

Keeping good farm records is becoming increasingly important for today's young farmer or agribusiness manager. Ned Smith, whose story starts on page 14, exemplifies the efforts FFA members put forth in utilizing farm management.

Cover photo by Jeffrey Tennant

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The FFA

NEWS IN BRIEF

RECORD BREAKING membership in the FFA Alumni Association continues to be a yearly event. Since the Alumni's creation in 1971, former FFA members have joined the Alumni at rates of 1,000 and up each year. Alumni Executive Director Woody Cox says membership for 1979-80 will push over the 15,000 mark for the first time. Latest figures, compiled a week before the dues closing date, showed Wisconsin leading all states with 3,596 Alumni members.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL will be awarded once again to the 22 national proficiency award winners. Initiated last year, the travel is an "international experience" in foreign agriculture. The tour, arranged in seminar format, includes stops at leading or unusual agriculture operations in European countries. You can qualify for the tour by winning a national proficiency award. Most states will require award applications in the spring of 1980 so check with your advisor for application procedure and deadlines.

A GRANT from the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has been awarded FFA to enhance the knowledge of vocational agriculture educators in areas of community development. Ted Amick, FFA program specialist for contests, says the grant is the first of its kind awarded by FmHA. Monies from the grant will fund a joint USDA/FFA project to formulate lesson plans in community development. Regional workshops to introduce the lessons begin in the fall of 1980. Amick says programs such as Building Our American Communities may be enriched by planned classroom studies of community development.

THE WHITE HOUSE issued invitations to all state FFA presidents to attend President Carter's news briefing on energy held in late October. State Presidents Ward Juedeman from Montana and Bob Quick from Illinois were in attendance. Interest in *The President's Challenge* program is reflected in hundreds of commitment cards from chapters nationwide requesting action information packets. Applications for participation in the program may be obtained by writing *The President's Challenge,* % National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

BOB BERGLAND, U.S. secretary of agriculture, expects to see and hear FFA members at meetings Bergland has scheduled around the country. Bergland and staff have planned "town meetings" to converse with local rural people and agricultural leaders regarding the structure of American agriculture. The discussions afford FFA members opportunity to voice their views on contemporary issues in the nation's agricultural situation. The December meetings are: 4th in Sioux City, Iowa; 5th in Sedalia, Missouri; 6th in Wichita Falls, Texas; 11th in Boulder, Colorado; 12th in Spokane, Washington; 13th in Fresno, California, and the 18th in Lafayette, Indiana.

Members of the Future Farmers of Japan and Japanese agriculture teachers observe the sewing of letters on FFA jackets in the National Center. The Future Farmers of Hokkaido, a part of FFJ, visited during a U.S. tour.

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Agriculture

LOOKING AHEAD

DISCARDED FISH, to the tune of 900 million pounds per year, are going from food to useless waste in the shrimping operations of Texas-based trawlers. Scientists at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station say such wastage indicates the potential gulf fisheries hold for expanding global food supplies. The discarded fish are mostly bottom dwellers which shrimp boats are not equipped to keep. Dr. Gunnar Finne, Texas A&M University technologist, says shrimp boats would have to be redesigned and enlarged to retain and carry the entire catch if the food supply of fish is to be utilized.

FEED FROM WOOD? The wood of the aspen tree has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a new animal feed. The approval means that the new fibrous feed for ruminants, substantially developed at South Dakota State University, can now be placed on the market. Aspen, which can be produced cheaper than traditional roughage, can be fed as silage or as a prepared pellet with supplement. Approval of aspen as a livestock feed will accelerate programs to save the aspen tree. The tree must be harvested to produce from the roots. In many areas mature aspens die unless harvested.

GASOHOL in Brazilian cars may soon give way to pure alcohol, according to Brazilian government officials. The *World Development Letter* reports the South American country will build 1.7 million cars over the next five years that will run exclusively on alcohol. The government is guaranteeing sufficient production of sugar cane, which, when refined, yields the alcohol. The report discloses that 21 states in the United States are marketing gasohol but that prospects of going to pure alcohol are limited.

A RECORD CROP in the United States is being written on the history books. Forecasts for corn, wheat and soybean yields per acre place this year's harvest over last year's volume, with increases as much as 18 percent in soybeans. Feed grain (corn, sorghum, oats and barley) and food grain (wheat, rye and rice) outputs are both heading for record highs. Production of cotton, a crop recovering from a low year in 1978, is forecasted to increase by 32 percent.

A DEADLY MEAL for livestock in the cold fall months may be found in certain grasses, says John Herrick, extension veterinarian at Iowa State University. Herrick says animals foraging sorghums, Johnson grass, sudangrass and sorgo-sudan crosses run a risk of prussic (hydrocyanic) acid poisoning. The poison is most likely present in immature plants under 18 inches in height. Forage containing the grasses is usually safe after 30 to 60 days. If you notice animals sick after grazing, Herrick advises calling a veterinarian immediately.

DRYING CORN can be costly energy-wise so many pork producers are considering feeding corn in high moisture (HM) form. Research at universities has demonstrated HM corn as an excellent feed for growing, finishing and breeding swine. Since HM corn is very palatable and swine may overeat, a supplement should be mixed in to assure a balanced ration. HM corn will spoil on exposure to air so storage by an oxygen-limiting silo, treatment with organic acid and daily feeding from the top of silage is recommended.

"SUPER CHICKEN" has surfaced at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The super bird, a white leghorn, recently laid egg number 371 in a year's time. "As far as we know, that's a record," says Harold Biellier, UMC professor and developer of the "egg-a-day" strain of laying chickens. The key to the bird's good production is that she doesn't take a break in her laying cycle. Biellier says the birds are not 100 percent perfect for commercial production but are biologically capable of egg-a-day laying.

STERILIZED MILK on American breakfast tables instead of conventional pasteurized fluid milk could save the nation as much as 12 billion barrels of petroleum annually. That's the conclusion of a recent study conducted at the University of Maryland. "Sterilized acceptable milk," so-called by the study, saves energy because it eliminates the need for refrigeration and reduces transportation costs. High energy costs at the processing level take a slight edge off transportation and refrigeration savings. However, studies indicate adaptation of modifications in the system will equalize processing costs.

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Building by Borrowing

By Jeffrey Tennant

With Steve keeping close records on the health and performance of each cow, the herd is manipulated to produce high yields and given "personal" care.

RAGING flames shot into the black Nebraska night, creating a vicious glow on the horizon. From the Richard Zimmerman dairy, it looked as if a piece of the sun had fallen—and dangerously close. Eventually, the fire would consume the biggest part of the nearby barn, consuming along with it farm vehicles and a winter supply of hay.

Steve Zimmerman, Nebraska's FFA proficiency award winner in dairy production, wiped his brow and headed home. He and his fellow firefighters had done all they could do. Most everyone had morning chores in a couple of short hours. Steve was no exception.

"Arson," Steve says, when asked the suspected cause of the fire. "There's been a lot of it lately." The destroyed barn was owned by the Zimmerman landlord, a man who has "bent over backwards" to help Steve and his father. But character never stopped flames. In farming communities, arson can wipe out a lifetime of endeavor in a few blistering moments.

Maybe the desire to put a stop to the crime of burning is why Steve adds fireman duties to his work as a dairy farmer. But now the fire is merely smoldering; the dairy beckons.

Steve, a native of Fairbury, Nebraska, doesn't own a tremendous number of cattle or acres. His livestock enterprise consists of 33 milking Holsteins, 15 hogs and 20 beef cattle. Rounding out the farm is 549 acres of corn, wheat, oats, alfalfa, milo and pasture. It's solid, well-managed proof that young people can start from scratch and build a successful, profitable operation.

"I may have helped him," shares his dad, "but I haven't given him anything. He's bought what he has by reinvesting profits made from his FFA projects."

Steve's enterprise has expanded through several avenues. Starting several years ago with one Holstein dairy cow, a dairy heifer and five acres of corn, Steve's operation slowly began to build.

Having borrowed money through a conventional loan at a local bank, Steve's record of good credit increased his chances of securing another loan. He read about a Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) loan in *The National FUTURE FARMER* and set about procuring operating funds. His loan approved, Steve bought a swather and went to work in the custom swathing business. He also planted five acres of corn on rented ground.

"Being in debt is tough at times," says Steve, looking around at his accumulations of farm property. "You've got to show people you've got the interest and desire to farm—then follow it through."

Steve harvested 110 bushels per acre from his dryland corn acreage. The corn was sold and the money used to repay part of the FmHA loan. Steadily, in small chunks, Steve's herd scope began to grow.

"By my sophomore year," he recalls, "I had eight cows and five heifers, some of which were bought with the loan money. I went into my junior year with 12 cows and 12 heifer calves."

Constantly in close touch with his ever-building herd, Steve didn't take time off to show his stock at shows, nor did he buy registered animals.

"To make registered cattle pay," he suggests, "you need to show and I just couldn't do that. I've always been more interested in production than a name."

From milk sales and occasional sale of stock, funds became available for Steve to diversify into several farming areas. Working under the pressure of a loan, Steve's diligence rewarded him with good results from his investment. But a scare occurred now and then.

"I lost money with the swather in my junior year," he admits, looking back on the loss as "one of those things." Instead of letting the undesirable cash flow undermine his efforts, Steve decided

more rented acreage seemed the way to go—so a big move was made.

"In the fall of my senior year I put in 127 acres of wheat, 57 acres of corn, 22 acres of milo and 21 acres of oats, all on rented ground. At $1,500 an acre, land here is hard to purchase. By then I had 25 dairy cows and calves and 18 fattening Holstein-Angus beef cattle. I used the yield from the crops primarily for my own feeding purposes."

With time, patience and application of ideas, the small project blossomed into a sophisticated dairy farm. Steve soon expanded his dairy herd, milking facilities and crop production toward a maximum. "After reaching 75 head," he says, "we'll be at our capacity facility-wise. From there I'll concentrate solely on herd improvement."

Production factors climbed steadily as Steve built his farm. From 1973 to 1975, the herd's annual average per head milk production figures went from 13,685 pounds to near 16,000. Butterfat content climbed steadily also. Steve's 94 bushel per acre yield from his corn in 1973 shot up to last year's 120 bushels. According to Steve's analysis of his records, the production increases were due to better cows through proper selection and breeding to good bulls, better feed and more fertilizer on the crops. Though the figures speak for themselves, at one point Steve thought he might watch his operation destroyed by a feared enemy of dairymen.

"Mastitis broke out a year ago," he remembers, his tone reflecting the serious hours of labor expended to beat the disease. "The herd average dropped sharply. And mastitis not only affects milk production, but breeding due to stress. In our case, equipment was the cause. We arrested the problem by installing three 200 cubic foot per minute vacuum lines and a new pump."

Perhaps the most effective management tool used by the family is not a new idea. "In 1966 we joined DHIA, the Dairy Herd Improvement Association," shares Steve. "On a pipeline milker system, you don't know how much milk is truly produced.

"Among other things, computer printouts we receive from DHIA show a feeding summary, or amount of feed per month per cow and the cost. It also shows a reproduction summary, production figures and costs and returns. Computers are very helpful if used properly and applied to proper data."

Zimmerman milk is largely sold to a local cooperative. Prices received have increased considerably since Steve's ninth grade year. The co-op's buying price of over $11 per hundredweight breaks down to around 96 cents per gallon, an excellent percentage of return for today's raw material producer.

Of course, prices received aren't the only prices rising. Costs of production have tripled over the last ten years for the Zimmermans. The double-four herringbone parlor now used by the family cost $25,000 to build in 1972. Now, says Steve, the same system would run closer to $60,000.

"Costs aren't the only challenge between you and farming," Steve cautions. "A lot of young people want to farm. We have trouble keeping good farm labor because the workers want their own farm or they take other jobs.

"If all you're needing is finances, though, be wise about it. I always figure long on my liabilities and conservative on assets. Don't overextend yourself. And keep your eyes open for good buys on cattle. I've bought $400 calves for $200 before. Manage well and diversify if possible. We grow our own grain here so all we buy is a feed supplement. Saving a little here and there helps."

Steve discloses that his attitude about career farming has had ups and downs. But he went into the business with the idea of building from one Holstein cow to a gainful, self-supporting enterprise. He's attained just that.

"If it hadn't been for FFA, I wouldn't be farming," Steve asserts, with no qualms. "When I was a freshman I saw a film called 'Stars Over America,' with the FFA Star Farmer candidates. I knew then I wanted to be one." Steve pauses, thinking of his two careers—farming and fire-fighting. Then, with FFA in mind, he leaves one statement before going off to chores: "If there's not a spark, there won't be a fire."

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Readers Report

MAILBAG

Chelsea, Oklahoma

Being a member of the older half of what some call the "generation gap," it is always gratifying to me to read articles such as the one in my August issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* about youngsters like Jan Roop "The Lime Drivin' Kid" and to see a clean-cut all around nice feller like Bobby Berger typifying the American cowboy on one of the advertisement pages. My son Bart and I both enjoy reading your publication.

Clem McSpadden

Manhattan, Kansas

Thanks for all of your cooperation in the past and now in getting labels for us to use on our state newsletter. This year and every year, plan to send us labels after your labels are run. As in the past, we would also like to receive an additional set for our records. When a teacher calls and says he's not receiving his magazine, we can check it out here. About 100 percent of the time it ends up not being your fault, which speaks highly of your organization's ability.

Robert J. Broeckelman
Executive Secretary
Kansas Association

Winchester, Virginia

The Central Valley Farm Credit Service staff is very appreciative of your time and efforts in publishing the article featuring our Junior PCA program in the October-November issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

We are very impressed with the magazine. It gives every appearance of being a professionally organized, first-quality publication. Hopefully, we will be able to forward additional information in the future.

Donald H. Whitehead, Jr.
Marketing Coordinator/Administrative Assistant

Newport, Washington

Last November I had the privilege of attending the American Royal Rodeo in Kansas City, during the National Convention. In my opinion it was one of the biggest highlights of the week.

I would like to know how the American Royal Rodeo Queen is chosen.

Our chapter secretary is the Pend Orielle County rodeo queen. She is an excellent rider and a very active member of our chapter. I've been encouraging her to try out for the state rodeo queen. I'd also like to encourage her to try out for the American Royal Rodeo Queen. I'd really appreciate it if you could send me any information.

Shelley McKinney

The American Royal Queen is selected from candidates nominated by state FFA associations during national convention week. It is not an official FFA function but the candidates are FFA members or former members. You should inquire within your state about how the association selects its candidate.—Ed.

New York, New York

I just received my copy of *The National FUTURE FARMER* and was very pleased to see the article and advertisement on page 10 [about the FFA Hall of Achievement]. I thought the article was extremely well presented and I hope the combination of the ad and the article will stimulate more activity by the FFA chapters.

I want to thank you very much for including this in the October-November issue and I hope that it has the desired result.

R. M. Hendrickson
President, Agricultural Division
Pfizer, Inc., and
1980 National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman

Franklin, Nebraska

I would like to thank you for the beautifully written story of Greg and our place in the last issue. Needless to say everyone is extremely proud and happy.

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Managing to Succeed

With the will to work and the ambition to excel, Ned Smith claimed farm ownership during his last year in high school.

by Jeffrey Tennant

The first bell rings loudly through the halls of Clinton Central High School in Michigantown, Indiana. Students scurry to classes, some wishing for more time to discuss the upcoming football game, others ready to proceed with vo-ag or civics class. For most of the students, the day started at home an hour or two ago. One student, however, a senior, heads for class with three hours of farm work behind him.

Ned Smith's schedule as a high school senior one year ago was grueling. Up at 5:30, dress against the Indiana cold or heat and out to the hogs. It's not easy owning a farm the last half of your senior year. Owning your own farm is a challenge in itself—but owning one at age 18 means a double day of school and chores.

Photos by Author

"I bought the farm in March," says Ned, reflecting on a few months before his high school graduation in 1978. "I'd get up and work with 500 head of pigs on feed before leaving for school. After school, I'd be back at chores." Answering an obvious question with a smile, Ned chuckles, "It didn't affect my grades too much."

Active in school band, chorus and varsity wrestling along with FFA events, Ned's school activities didn't suffer either. The stocky young farmer's FFA activities included state FFA chorus, chapter vice-president and the agricultural mechanics team. Ned also led both livestock and dairy judging teams to national FFA contests where he received top individual honors in both events. All this involvement meant extra hours in an already packed day.

Ned grew accustomed to long hours while growing up on his parents' 500-acre hog and crops farm in Clinton County, Indiana. Helping his family market 1,800 head of hogs annually, Ned says, "The operation was the basis of my decision to enter hog production. When I bought my farm I assumed 100 percent management responsibility. Even when I was working with my folks I had a separate project. For instance, when Dad (Richard) built a new farrowing house I remodeled the old house and barn and used them."

Ned's 5-acre farm consists of a 20-sow farrowing house, a 320-head finishing facility, 2 gestation barns, 6 confinement breeding pens and a 6,500-bushel grain bin. A feed storage shed, hog nursery and a modern two-bedroom home round out the farrow-to-finish operation.

"I'm renting 90 acres for corn production," says Ned, explaining his feeding situation. "Of the 120 head of breeding stock, about 20 sows a month are farrow-

Ned's 5-acre farm sees new growth quite often, not only in pigs but in modern, innovative facilities.

The confinement structure used for Ned's finishing hogs affords easy maintenance and increases feeding efficiency, resulting in good weight gain.

ing. I'm marketing around 2,400 fat crossbred hogs a year so it takes a good bit of feed."

Ned lives alone on his farm. Sitting in his office, part of the house he recently remodeled, Ned could be mistaken for a much older man by his mature attitude toward farm management. Management is important to Ned; the ability to solve a financial problem or production question may mean the difference in a successful farm and bankruptcy.

"If you get $200,000 invested in a farm and much of that borrowed, you must use careful management," Ned advises, referring to his situation. "Know in detail what you'll do with borrowed money. Many things can go wrong that could put you behind for good. It's kinda' scary at times, being in debt. But the most comfortable way to build a farm is start small and increase your net worth. I started with ten sows and kept investing profits from the pigs."

Ned borrowed the money to buy his farm from a small local bank. Though the sum needed was large, the loan application was approved because of Ned's good credit history. He had borrowed money before and met his payment obligation. The loan officers considered Ned a hard worker with potential to build a profitable business from the loaned monies.

For the bank, loaning Ned money was a "good risk." A 9 percent mortgage was arranged, meaning Ned would pay the bank 9 percent "interest" on the loan amount plus the "principal," or amount loaned. Interest is actually the price Ned pays the bank for borrowing money. By collecting interest, banks are able to keep their money supplies stable, pay the Federal Reserve Bank for borrowing American money and offset inflation. Since inflation decreases the value of a dollar, or what a dollar can buy, interest helps compensate for the decreasing value of the loan amount. Payments of principal and interest are usually paid monthly and spread out over periods up to 30 years. For farmers, some banks only require payments at special times of the year such as harvest sale time.

"I also have 'open line' credit at 9½ percent," shares Ned, referring to his financial arrangements with the bank for cash to handle costs such as unexpected operating expenditures. The interest is higher because the amount borrowed on open line credit is generally a convenience for the borrower and not such a large sum. A credit line obligates the bank to keep funds available for the borrower.

The farmer or agribusiness manager must make sure a loan can be repaid with interest before considering borrowing. In making such decisions, "Ned kept an excellent set of records throughout high school," says Ralph Walker, Ned's FFA advisor. "I have always been impressed with Ned's planning and goal setting abilities. He is already recognized in the community as a top swine producer. I wouldn't hesitate to go to him for advice on swine nutrition or technological advances in the swine industry."

"Record keeping is stressed in vo-ag with good reason," says Ned. "Learning the application and importance of keeping books through my vo-ag class has been important to me. I keep fairly tight records but I don't keep track of every move. I do take note of little things though—a dollar saved here and there per pig adds up."

Ned's good records not only help in financial decisions but in hog and facility expansion. His plans for an innovative double-deck cage nursery will increase the capacity of the 24- by 32-foot building to 650 head. Records also keep Ned posted on the unique three-week weaning time, an approach that is proving an average farrowing rate per sow of 2.25 times per year. Ned gauges each animal's performance, a task necessary when experimenting with new production techniques.

At age 19, Ned is firmly established in farming. He shares common fears with other farmers such as outbreak of diseases and price falls in the market. He also shares the common joys of entrepreneurship. Ned is in debt but his books show a profit. The farm is paying for itself and will eventually expand. Ned hopes to improve efficiency and maximize production with 200 healthy sows.

"FFA taught me to set goals higher," he confides. "In FFA you can see what others have done. Knowing that someone else can do it means you can, too, if you set your mind to it."

From star Greenhand to star Chapter Farmer, Ned Smith "set his mind to it." By reaching for his goals and using strong farm management, Ned is one farming "star" who will continue to rise and shine.

Ned tackles most of the mechanical work needed on his farm equipment.

Tom waits behind Adin Hester, a fellow national officer, for the hand of Dwight Eisenhower. FFA officers met President Eisenhower in January, 1959.

Once a Member, An Alumni for life

SILENCE filled the auditorium as a crowded hall of FFA members anxiously awaited the announcement of a new slate of National FFA Officers. As the decisions became publicly known, each office being filled with an exuberant Future Farmer, one uncalled candidate sat nervously—hoping to hear his name. Then came the amplified words:

"The new central region vice president, from Ozark, Missouri, Tom Stine!"

This might have been the scene at the 1958 National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, when Tom was first elected. His goal finally reached, Tom was now able to run to the stage and join his fellow officers, each ready to begin a year of service to FFA members nationwide.

Since Tom's first association with FFA in 1950, the Ozark native has made FFA an active part of his life. Involving himself heavily in FFA Alumni activities, Tom has served as Missouri's FFA Alumni chairman and president of the Ozark FFA Alumni affiliate. Tom has seen the Ozark affiliate grow to the largest chapter in the nation. The chapter currently boasts 331 members.

Tom is now a father and a family farmer, operating a dairy and crops enterprise in partnership with his dad, Charles. Tom and Charles, along with Tom's wife, Sarah, and 13-year-old Tom, Jr., milk 100 cows and maintain a 200-head herd. Eighty acres of corn and 80 acres of small grain for hay are grown on part of 500 owned and rented acres.

For Tom, success in farming and FFA has been self-made. An establishment in farming and FFA Alumni is the result of an active participation and pride in agriculture.

Pride also went along with Tom's first jacket purchase at the 1951 National FFA Convention. Due to lack of rooms in Kansas City that year, Tom and his fellow Ozark delegates slept in a tractor showroom. But the lodging arrangements didn't prevent the formation of Tom's dream to become a national officer.

In high school, Tom competed in many FFA contests, including public speaking, parliamentary procedure and dairy judging. A well-rounded young leader, Tom served terms as student body president and president of the state FFA leadership camp. Majoring in dairy processing at the University of Missouri at Columbia, Tom's career eventually led to his working in many areas of dairy manufacturing. One day, Tom returned to start his own farm in Ozark. With his return came the idea of an FFA Alumni chapter.

"We started the chapter in 1974 with ten members," he says. "We paid state and national dues—never have had local—and then offered a prize of $10 to see who could sign up the most members. I think the $10 prize came out of somebody's pocket."

Whether it was the $10 that spurred the members to sign 125 members in the first year is questionable. Whatever the incentive, the membership drive got things rolling for Ozark Alumni.

"The 125-member chapter made us tops in the nation," recalls Tom. "That gave us incentive and we kept building from there. The second year we had 231 members and in '78 we had 261. We signed 140 of them at a watermelon feed in city park—took $65 worth of melons to feed everybody."

Ozark Alumni is not just a pay-dues-and-forget-it club. They are actively involved in helping the local FFA chapter and community. The affiliate funds prizes and awards for high achievers in FFA from the 80-member Ozark Chapter. Nothing too major for the affiliate to undertake, the FFA chapter now has a new fair barn at the county fairgrounds. Projects in BOAC, Food For America and an annual banquet also feel the helping hand of Ozark Alumni members.

"I remember one Saturday," Tom continues, "when we had two ladies taking the chapter meats team to look at meat cuts in local stores. Another member took the dairy team to Columbia for a judging event. One member took the beef team to a contest, another took the dairy products team out. We had ten different people going ten different directions that day. The FFA advisor got to stay home that Saturday because of alumni involvement."

Indicative of cooperation given Ozark Advisor Bob Crismon and the chapter members, Tom says, "We have total support from our school administration, school board, business people and, of course, the farming community. Many people from Ozark sport FFA Alumni stickers on their cars and pickups because they are very interested in FFA programs."

Tom and his fellow alumni members work very closely with Advisor Crismon and the Future Farmers of Ozark. Tom believes the close association between active and former FFA members is a key to the strength and membership of the Ozark Alumni chapter.

"We make sure alumni are invited to about every other FFA meeting. At meetings, our FFA members always wear official dress, look their best and know their parts in ceremonies. When you hear opening and initiation ceremonies, alumni members can't help but be impressed with the FFA organization."

When it comes to FFA, Tom Stine certainly fits the old saying: "Once a friend, always a friend." *(By Eugene Craker and Jeffrey Tennant)*

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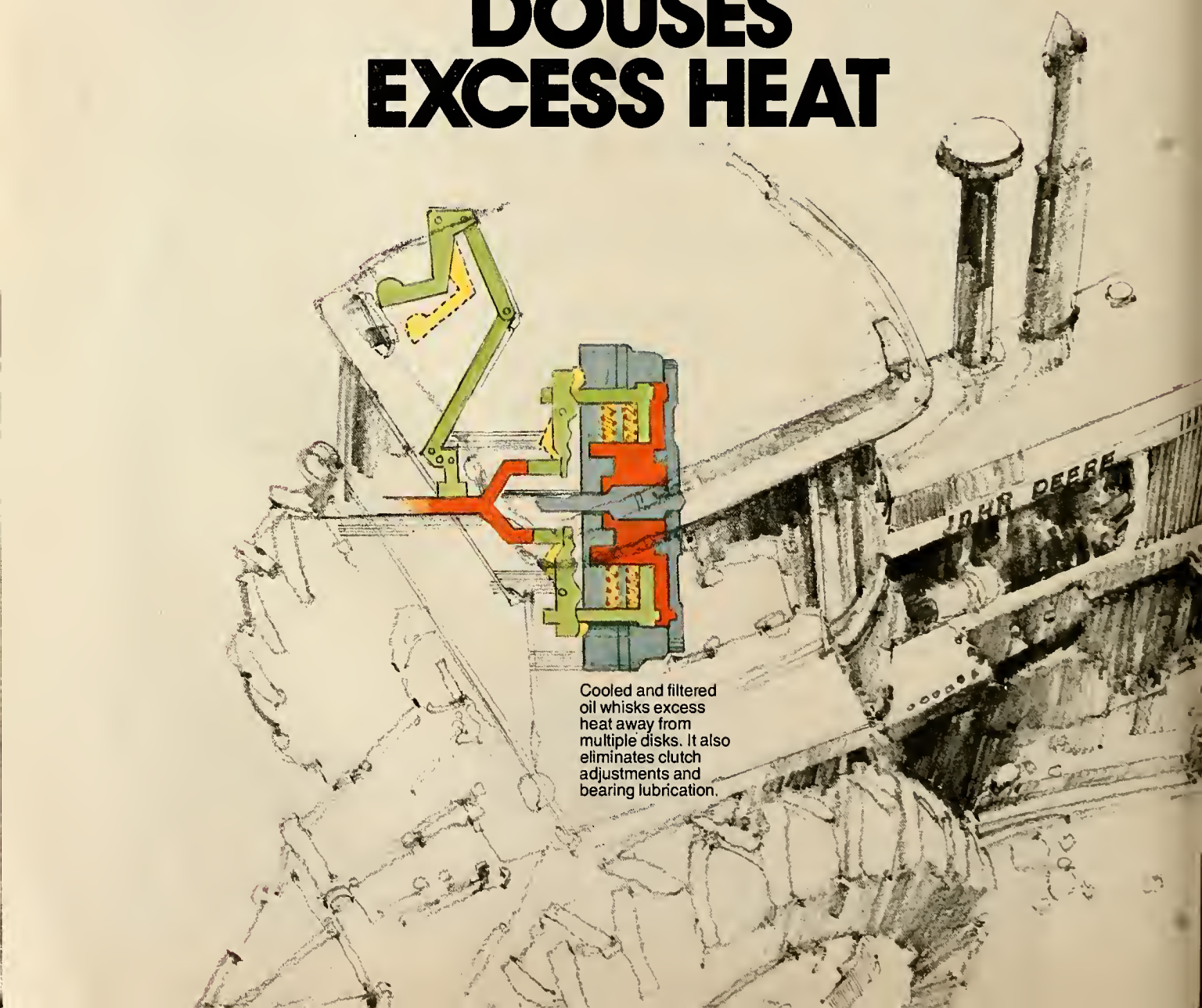

Cooled and filtered oil whisks excess heat away from multiple disks. It also eliminates clutch adjustments and bearing lubrication.

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Excess heat—it's your biggest threat to long clutch life. Eliminate excess heat and you eliminate excess wear and premature failure. But how? Clutches need friction to work, and friction produces heat.

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But, as usual, John Deere takes a good idea several steps further. For example, our clutch facings are nonmetallic. That means they too aid cooling because some oil is absorbed and partially vaporized, speeding the transfer of heat out of the clutch. They also tend to insulate the disk core, preventing it from warping. Another step: separator plates between facings are extra thick to assure that clutch disks remain flat.

Perma-Clutch is also hydraulically engaged. That means easy operation, but more important, it means Perma-Clutch never needs adjustment. And you'll never have to lubricate the clutch bearing. It's positively lubricated by the same oil that engages Perma-Clutch.

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Fifteenth in a series of articles about the history of FFA.

FFA at 50

The FFA Adds Agribusiness

By Wilson Carnes, Editor

THE year 1969 is noted in FFA history as the year the organization named the first Star Agribusinessman of America. This new award gave official recognition and publicity to a trend that had been going on in FFA and vocational agriculture for quite sometime.

The Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 that created vocational agriculture was quite specific in what the educational program was to do. The Act stated that such education be designed to meet the needs of persons over fourteen years of age who have entered upon or who are preparing to enter upon the work of the farm or of the farm home. It stated that schools offering such education must provide practice on a farm for at least six months per year. Later acts that amended the Smith-Hughes Act did not change this purpose. The "Handbook on Teaching Vocational Agriculture" which was used widely in the years following World War II by teachers and college students preparing to be teachers stated it very clearly, "The primary aim of vocational education in agriculture is to train present and prospective farmers for proficiency in farming."

The trend to fewer farmers and larger farms that developed rapidly in the '50's and '60's caused many changes to take place in the agricultural industry. The change to fewer farmers was offset in part by a rapid growth in the related occupations that provide services to farmers and markets the products of the farm. Terms like "off-farm agricultural occupations," "agribusiness" and similar expressions came into use.

Then, in 1963, major changes were made in federal legislation that helps states and local school systems finance vocational education. The Vocational Education Act of 1963 authorized programs that were planned in view of actual or anticipated employment opportunities. Further, the programs were open to all who could benefit from the training or retraining. For vocational agriculture, this was interpreted to mean training could be offered to any student requiring knowledge and skills in agriculture, whether they live on a farm or not. The supervised farming program that had been a requirement of all students in the early years of vocational agriculture became a work experience program. Students interested in "agribusiness" could get this experience at a machinery dealer, feed and seed store, or similar places of employment and training.

The first Star Agribusinessmen of America, above, were named at the 1969 National FFA Convention. From left, Ken Dunagan, Arizona, national winner; Charlie Seidel, Jr., Texas; Roger Phelps, Ohio; and Charles Postles, Jr., Delowore.

Leaders in agricultural education and FFA began to wrestle with the problem of serving these new areas in agriculture. In practice, the change was already taking place in many communities. One ag teacher was overheard to say that the 1963 Act was great because it legalized what was already going on. Students were already enrolling in vocational agriculture who did not plan to farm or ranch but did want to work in some off-farm agricultural occupation.

The FFA was already recognizing student achievement in some related areas that were important to agriculture. The agricultural proficiency award in farm mechanics was started in 1944, in farm electrification in 1946. Farm safety became a chapter award in 1950.

In 1966, the proficiency award in Ornamental Horticulture was added. This award was dropped in 1977 and separate awards were added for Fruit and/or Vegetable Production, Turf and Landscape Management, Floriculture and Nursery Operation. But what do we do for agribusiness?

The first breakthrough came in 1968 with the Agricultural Proficiency Award in Agribusiness. Some FFA leaders were troubled that this was not enough.

Encouraged by sponsors to the FFA Foundation, the FFA established the Star Agribusinessman of America award and the first recipients were recognized at the National FFA Convention in 1969. This award was to parallel the Star Farmer of America award.

The first member to be named the Star Agribusinessman of America was Ken Dunagan of Willcox, Arizona. Ken was the operator of a custom harvesting, spraying and feedlot operation which was jointly owned in partnership with his father who was employed elsewhere. Ken received a $1,000 check from the FFA Foundation.

Until 1971 the FFA operated both the proficiency award in Agribusiness and the Star Agribusinessman of America award. That year the agribusinessman proficiency award was divided into two awards; agricultural processing and agricultural sales and/or service.

Also in 1971, the ceremony at the National FFA Convention for naming the Star Farmer of America and Star Agribusinessman was combined into the Stars Over America Pageant.

One thing is certain. An expanded instructional program has given added opportunities for students preparing for careers in agriculture. It has also enabled the FFA to continue to grow in membership, making an all-time high of 509,735 in 1977.

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Here's your first assignment. Prove to your parents that you're old enough to own your own bike. How?

Show them that when it comes to taking on responsibility of any kind, you're not a kid anymore. Because kids don't ride motorcycles.

Now, a good place to start (other than cleaning up your room), is learning what kind of bike to ask for. You'll be glad to know that Kawasaki has the right mini motorcycle for every rider starting out. We're here to tell you about all of them, so you can tell your parents.

Good Luck.

If you want to play in the dirt, start on the KD80M. Dad will like the price, you'll like everything else. It comes with a 5-speed transmission, a 79cc 2-stroke engine, and primary starting, so you can start in any gear. There's no premixing oil and gas, our Superlube injection takes care of that.

KD80M

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This 3-speed trail bike is great for beginners. The KV75 has an automatic clutch, which means no clutch lever to deal with. And it goes everywhere with the family. Just fold down the handlbars, and stick it in the back of the car. (It won't leak gas or oil on the way.)

KV75

Here's a dirt bike of another color. Lime green, like its racing cousin, the KX80 mini (not shown). It has a motocross frame and suspension, leading axle front forks, and a 16" front wheel to handle rough ground. The engine is an 82cc 2-stroke reed valve.

KDX80

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Don't let the good times pass you by.

Seated are National Secretary Philip Benson, left, and Douglas Rinker, national president. Standing left to right are national vice presidents Elin Duckworth, Dee James, Donald Trimmer, Jr., and Jeffrie Kirby.

YOUR NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS

THIRTY-SIX of FFA's finest members at the 52nd National Convention spent a week of their lives in an experience of emotion, stress, fellowship and personal discovery. Each of the 36, candidates for national office, faced a nominating committee challenged to select six officers to represent FFA for a year. An awesome task, the committee's report came before a silenced audience during a convention session. Following the report and moments of pressure and frenzy, six FFA members took their places as National Officers.

"I've been inspired by National Officers and feel I owe something to FFA," says Doug Rinker, 20, of Winchester, Virginia, new national president. Doug, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rinker, served as chapter president of James Wood FFA and Virginia state president. Before his election to president, a beef and orchard operation kept Doug busy in between studies in agricultural education at Virginia Tech. While in high school, Doug became a cross country varsity letterman and member of the National Honor Society.

New National Secretary Philip Benson of Winters, California, said a few days before his election, "I hope I can pass on leadership skills to others if I am elected." Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Benson, 20-year-old Phil served as a California state officer and was a runner-up in the national finals of FFA public speaking. Now pursuing a career goal in agribusiness and beef production, Phil draws on a wide range of leadership abilities including sports and student judicial committee activities.

Jeff Kirby, southern region vice president, says, "The office is a dream I've had. It will be a continuation of dedication and service." Jeff, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kirby of Mountain Home, Arkansas, served as chapter and state president. In high school, Jeff spent his time on the student council, Beta honors society, track and football teams. Jeff's area of work in agriculture includes veterinarian assistant and beef production.

"I believe in my ability and desire to serve the members," confided Don Trimmer, Jr., before his election as eastern region vice president. A 20-year-old from Woodsboro, Maryland, Don assists his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Trimmer, Sr., with a 250-head herd of registered Angus. From Star Greenhand to state president of Maryland FFA Don has achieved high awards in livestock and meats judging as well as accomplishing himself in student government, chorus, theater and sports.

Elin Duckworth, 19, of Mesa, Arizona, says, "FFA has been my life. I am indebted to it. The opportunity to serve is very rewarding." As new western region vice president, Elin brings a personal quality of enthusiasm to the organization. Her work in agriculture includes sales positions at a nursery and feed store and sales assistant for agricultural products. Elin served as chapter president and treasurer as well as state vice president. She has competed in national meats and horticulture contests and served her high school as student body officer and Outstanding Student Leader. Elin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Duckworth.

"A satisfied customer is the best salesman," says Dee James of his FFA involvement. Dee says he looks forward to "telling the story" of FFA during his term as central region vice president. A 20-year-old wheat producer from Clay Center, Kansas, Dee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Killman of Clay Center and Bill James of Abilene. Dee served as chapter and state president and competed in FFA public speaking and judging contests on district, state and national levels. Dee is also active in Kansas State University student activities serving as a senator and winner of the Blue Key outstanding sophomore leader scholarship.

Delegates, judging teams, contestants, award winners and friends of the FFA filled the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium once again with a sea of blue and gold. Clockwise, from left, national officers Kevin Drane, Jeff Rudd, Mark Sanborn, Kelly Grant, Elvin Caraway and Dean Norton presided over the convention sessions.

THE CONVENTION!

Prepared for Progress—three words that best describe the thousands of witnesses to the spectacle at the 52nd National FFA Convention. Preparing for Progress—for over 22,000 members, advisors and friends of the Future Farmers of America, these three words are no longer the convention theme, they are now a very real challenge.

The 1979 edition of the world's largest youth convention in Kansas City is now history. Three days of official convention activities, November 7-9, kept Future Farmers enthralled in excitement, learning and discovery.

Kansas City felt the first waves of the gathering days before the first tapping of the gavel. Hotels within 40 miles of the convention auditorium registered vanloads of young leaders. Before the week's end each Future Farmer and advisor would lose some sleep, sweat on the palm and share in the emotion of being named the best. They're all winners—and all preparing for progress.

Some came with years of progress behind them. The awarding of the American Farmer degree, FFA's highest, to 789 members may have concluded goals set by recipients. But the degree doesn't signify an end, it is a mark of a beginning, a symbol of high achievement and establishment in agriculture.

Dairy farmer Kevin Holtzinger of Pennsylvania, named Star Farmer of America, exemplifies the personal drive necessary to operate a productive farm at age 21. Robert Lovelace of Missouri, named Star Agribusinessman, also rises as the cream of the crop. Robert's nursery seed business fits its owner; both are a competitive success story.

The convention served as an arena of deserved recognition for involved FFA chapters from across the nation. Many of the chapters, such as the 151 that received national Building Our American Communities awards, have spent years in group efforts of community development. Judges singled out the Big Walnut Chapter of Sunbury, Ohio, as operators of the finest BOAC program in the country. Over 100 chapters in FFA's safety award program and 120 top chapters in the chapter award program left Kansas City with emblems of gold, silver or bronze and a true sense of accomplishment. The chapters now are even more prepared for progress—with winning comes inspiration.

The gathering in Kansas City culminated countless hours of "labor and tillage of the soil" for individuals as well as chapters. National awards were presented to 22 winners in the FFA proficiency award program. The recognized

FFA members have a proven record of excellence in each proficiency area of agricultural production or agribusiness. Preparing to progress—all participants in the motivational proficiency program are forging ahead with careers in agriculture.

Going it alone; two contests in the Future Farmer program stand as one of a kind. Nowhere can an individual go through a competitive series from local chapters to the stage of the National FFA Convention speaking before 20,000 listeners. Progressing through all stages as number one, Lynette Marshall of Champaign, Illinois, took top honors in the Prepared Public Speaking contest. The first ever finals in the Extemporaneous Speaking contest resulted in winner Christe Peterson of Madison, Wisconsin. In her speech, Christe said, "Work is the most important word in leadership." Christe and Lynette—examples of FFA members working to achieve, preparing for leadership.

Christe Peterson, left, became the first national winner in FFA's new Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest. Lynette Marshall, right, took top honors in the Prepared Speaking event, the first female winner in the contest's history.

Team efforts are a trademark of FFA activities. This year two special teams—the famous "mail order" National FFA Band and Chorus—performed beautifully under the guidance of band director Roger Heath and chorus director Marvin Myers. The 203 musicians comprising these teams exhibit marks of accomplishment in music.

Judging teams converged on Kansas City for the national FFA contests, events that conclude months and often years of preparation in nine areas such as livestock judging and farm management. Over 1,400 FFA members making up 362 teams from all states applied their skills in national competition. The "best of the best" were named, but all teams are winners—all prepared to progress with knowledge in specific areas of agriculture.

"The future is not a menace, it's a masterpiece," said Dr. Robert Schuller, the convention's kickoff speaker. Schuller, with his dynamic approach to the challenge of "possibility thinking," was only one of many inspiring and educational speakers heard at the convention. Congressman Charles Stenholm of Texas urged members to "believe in the future of farming" and encouraged FFA to uphold the ideals of free enterprise. Dr. Thomas Haggai, Cotton Ivy, Stella Parton and Dr. Dan Dunham also addressed the group.

The convention not only recognized FFA's finest members. FFA Alumni Leadership Workshops inspired thousands throughout the week. FFA used the convention to recognize special contributors from hundreds of National FFA Foundation sponsors and adult supporters. *Farm Journal* magazine, Eastern States Exposition and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company received distinguished service citations for significant service to agriculture and FFA. Roland M. Hendrickson, president of the Agricultural Division of Pfizer, Inc., was named 1980 chairman of the FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee. Through the efforts of 1979 Chairman Robert Lund, vice president of General Motors, the Foundation announced the raising of $1,050,000 to fund FFA programs.

The convention provided an experience for everyone—be it a few minutes of conversation with a business or government leader, an educational side trip to agricultural points of interest or emotional exposure to the myriad of convention activities geared for learning and discovery. This year's event truly prepared those in attendance for another year of progress as leaders in agriculture.

Over 200 booths introduced FFA members to career opportunities during the National Agricultural Career Show.

Motivational, inspiring, educational—three words that best describe speakers such as Dr. Robert Schuller.

The Winners' Circle

National Winners in bold type.

Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Star American Farmer	Dennis Ringhafer Owotonna, Minnesota Owotonna FFA Chapter	**Kevin Holtzinger** Windsor, Pennsylvania Bermudian FFA Chapter	Steven Burke Millen, Georgia Jenkins County FFA	Jerry Wiebe Hooker, Oklahoma Hooker FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Star Agribusinessman	**Robert Lovelace** Elsberry, Missouri Isberry FFA Chapter	Stanley Palmer Alliance, Ohio Marlington FFA Chapter	W. Kenley Redditt Orlando, Florida Orlando-Colonial FFA	Ron Grabner Kent, Washington Fife FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Prepared Public Speaking	**Lynette Marshall** Champaign, Illinois Sparland H.S. FFA	Paul Bennett Red House, Virginia Randolph Henry FFA	David Funk Branson, Florida Branson FFA	Kevin Shurtleff Seguin, Texas Seguin FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	**Christe Peterson** Madison, Wisconsin Jonesville-Parker FFA	John Pope Catawba, NC Bandys FFA Chapter	Randy Hedge Wickes, Arkansas Wickes FFA Chapter	Nick Siddle Cody, Wyoming Buffalo Bill FFA	American Farm Bureau Federation
Agricultural Proficiency Awards					
Agricultural Electrification	**Joe Alwan** Sycamore, Illinois Sycamore FFA	Jon L. Eck Chandlersville, Ohio Muskingum Area AIES FFA	Chuck Clyatt Lake Butler, Florida Lake Butler Senior FFA	Rory Spellman Riverton, Wyoming Riverton FFA	Food and Energy Council, Inc.
Agricultural Mechanics	Mark Wint Elizabethtown, Indiana Columbus East FFA	Joy Gainer Manheim, Pennsylvania Manheim FFA Chapter	Darrell Clark Grand Ridge, Florida Grand Ridge FFA	**Richard Durrant** Meridian, Idaho Kuna FFA Chapter	International Harvester
Agricultural Processing	**William Novak II** Denmark, Wisconsin Denmark FFA Chapter	Dale Ormeroid Richwood, Ohio Tri-Rivers JVS FFA	Gerald Edwards, Jr. Punta Gorda, Florida Charlotte County FFA	Bruce Durrant Meridian, Idaho Kuna FFA Chapter	Cargill, Inc.
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	David Eid Montevideo, Minnesota Montevideo FFA	**James Gowen** Gladys, Virginia Wm. Campbell FFA	John Goodwin, Jr. Gurley, Alabama Gurley FFA Chapter	Jonie Selman Tremonton, Utah Bear River FFA	Allis-Chalmers Corporation
Beef Production	**Bradley Staley** Hampton, Iowa Hampton Tall Corn FFA	Don Hilty Medway, Ohio Tecumseh FFA Chapter	John Sims III Oak Grove, Louisiana Oak Grove FFA	Julie Lebsack Sterling, Colorado Sterling FFA	NASCO and Sperry New Holland
Crop Production	**Christopher Fox** Elkton, Kentucky Todd Central FFA	Delmon Hardee Benson, North Carolina South Johnston FFA	Fred Lingo Oak Grove, Louisiana Oak Grove FFA	Randy Loutzenhiser Flagler, Colorado Flagler FFA Chapter	Massey-Ferguson, Inc.
Dairy Production	Karen Green Elsie, Michigan Ovid-Elsie FFA	Kevin Larcom Radnor, Ohio Buckeye Valley FFA	Clinton Pate Chipley, Florida Chipley FFA Chapter	**Chuck Perry** Elma, Washington Elma FFA Chapter	Avco New Idea Farm Equipment and The DeLaval Separator Co.
Diversified Livestock Production	**Kevin Robinson** Eskridge, Kansas Mission Valley FFA	William W. B. Hurt Blackstone, Virginia Nottaway Senior FFA	Mark Wiley Abbeville, SC Abbeville FFA	Tawny Tesconi Santa Rosa, California Santa Rosa FFA	A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc. and Wayne Feeds, Div. of Allied Mills
Fish and Wildlife Management	Thad Shively Pleasant Lake, ND Rugby FFA Chapter	Larry Stone Orrum, North Carolina Orrum FFA Chapter	O. Scott Stoutamire Hosford, Florida Liberty County FFA	**Lloyd Goebel** Castle Rock, Washington Toledo FFA Chapter	Philip Morris, Inc.
Floriculture	Linda Workman Crutchfield, Kentucky Fulton County FFA	Daniel Trivette Ladysmith, Virginia Caroline Senior FFA	John Tedder Lady Lake, Florida Leesburg Senior FFA	**Douglas Knippel** Camas, Washington Evergreen FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Forest Management	**Mike Benson** Blackduck, Minnesota Blackduck FFA	Charles Jenison New Berlin, New York New Berlin FFA	Clarence Manning Oak Grove, Louisiana Oak Grove FFA	DeAnne Summerlin Deer Park, WA Deer Park FFA	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	George Collier II Campton, Kentucky Wolfe County FFA	Darrell Cockrom Meadows of Dan, VA Carroll County FFA	Harold Valentine Buchanan, Tennessee Paris FFA Chapter	**Paul Herrman** Connell, Washington Connell FFA Chapter	Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	Charles Ward Coggon, Iowa North Linn FFA	**Larry DeWitt** Sunbury, Ohio Big Walnut FFA	Steve Foster Woodbury, Tennessee Woodbury FFA	David Kennedy Stillwater, Oklahoma Perry FFA Chapter	The Upjohn Company
Horse Proficiency	Julie Doese Delhi, Iowa Maquoketa Valley FFA	Kathy Hanners Washington C.H., Ohio Miami Trace FFA	Jeff Pitzer Perry, Georgia Perry Senior FFA	**Clifford Strickland** Longmont, Colorado St. Vrain Valley FFA	The American MORGAN Horse Foundation
Nursery Operations	Chuck Hamernik Clarkson, Nebraska Clarkson FFA Chapter	Robert Kemp Princess Anne, MD J. M. Tawes Vo-Tech FFA	**Clint Albin** Bush, Louisiana Covington High FFA	James Anderton Quinlan, Texas Quinlan FFA Chapter	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Outdoor Recreation	Jeff Errthum North Buena Vista, Iowa Guttenberg FFA Chapter	Juli Dolfinger Delowore, Ohio Delowore Hoyes FFA	James Buckner Dayton, Tennessee Rhea County FFA	**Eugene Barnes** Poulsbo, Washington North Kitsap FFA	White Farm Equipment Company
Placement in AGRI/cultural Production	Gary Ropp Goodland, Indiana South Newton FFA	Roger Schulze Anna, Ohio Anna FFA Chapter	Kenny Neel Elberta, Alabama Foley FFA Chapter	**Michael Clawson** Mesa, Arizona Mountain View FFA	Hesston Corporation and Shell Chemical Company
Poultry Production	Tim Lemler Bourbon, Indiana Triton FFA Chapter	**Melanie Burgess** Harrisonburg, VA Broadway FFA	Tony Cain Opp, Alabama Opp "Blue" FFA	Nora Worren Round Rock, Texas Round Rock FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Sheep Production	**Gary Goader** Cresco, Iowa Cresco FFA Chapter	Joel Litt Lexington, Ohio Northmor FFA	Shannon LeJeune Iota, Louisiana Iota FFA Chapter	Kevin Morehart Forgo, Oklahoma Forgo FFA Chapter	American Sheep Producers Council, Inc. and Carnation Company
Soil and Water Management	David Gulick Merrill, Michigan Breckenridge FFA	Bob Rooks Perrysville, Ohio Loudonville FFA	**Joel Weiher** Cottage Grove, TN Paris FFA Chapter	Ivan Stecklein Ault, Colorado Eaton-Highland FFA	Ford Motor Company Foundation
Swine Production	**Arlen Butts** Evansville, Wisconsin Evansville FFA	Ricky Hartsell Stanfield, NC Central Cabarrus FFA	Sandra Simpson Iva, South Carolina Crescent FFA Chapter	Alan Samber Sterling, Colorado Sterling FFA Chapter	Pfizer, Inc.
Turf and Landscape Management	Randy Tischendorf Marshfield, Wisconsin Marshfield FFA	Tony Ackley Marysville, Ohio Marysville FFA	Donny Black Cleveland, Tennessee Bradley FFA Chapter	**Terry Daniel** Mesa, Arizona Westwood FFA Chapter	O. M. Scott & Sons Company
National BOAC Citation	Stanton FFA Chapter Stanton, Nebraska	**Big Walnut FFA** Sunbury, Ohio	Seabreeze FFA Daytona, Florida	Otis FFA Chapter Otis, Colorado	Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	**Minnesota**—Leslie Morty, Mark Neu, Gary Kowalski; Pelican Rapids	**Gary Kowalski** Pelican Rapids, Minnesota	The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company
Dairy Cattle	**Tennessee**—Gary Rogers, Barry Rogers, Steve Rogers; Speedwell, Tennessee	**Gary Rogers** Speedwell, Tennessee	Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
Farm Business Management	**Iowa**—Mark Fox, Doug Pringnitz, Dea Sponheim; Osage	**Kevin Kleinheksel** Hamilton, Michigan	Deere & Company
Floriculture	**Minnesota**—Barb Fick, Nancy Rivers, Lois Bork; Winona	**David Ostrich** Herndon, Virginia	The Vitality Seed Company
Livestock	**California**—Art Green, Jr., Marty Roberts, Randy Jones; Santa Ynez	**Tom Hood** Guthrie, Oklahoma	Ralston Purina Company
Meats	**Oklahoma**—Mark Irwin, Tad Beveroge, Brad Clayburn, Perkins	**Steve Lorcher** Meridian, Idaho	Jones Dairy Farm, George A. Hormel & Co., Farmland Foods, Inc., and Oscar Mayer & Company
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	**California**—Jani Kunhle, Andi Rexroth, Barbara Cerny; Atoscadero	**Barbara Cerny** Atoscadero, California	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. and Potz Company
Nursery/Landscape	**California**—Mary Borer, Tim Clark, Randy Waterman, Canoga Park	**Mike Novak** Allentown, New Jersey	American Association of Nurserymen, Inc., Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.
Poultry	**Arkansas**—Keith Squires, Keith Childress, Ken Childress, Springdale	**Ken Childress** Springdale, Arkansas	Victor F. Weaver, Inc. and Hubbard Farms

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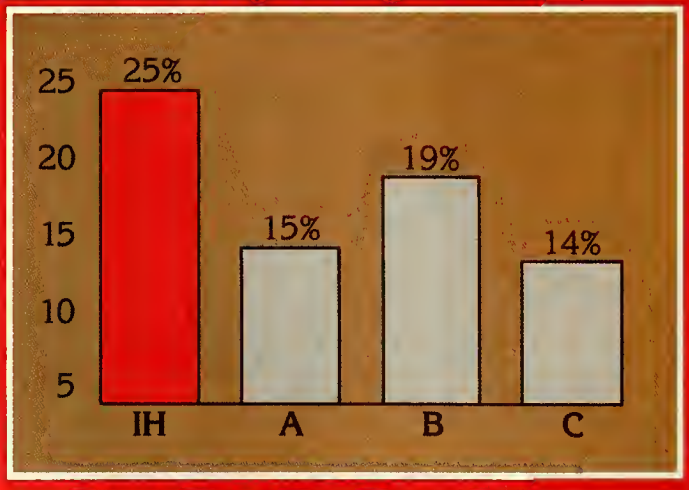

Percent of Torque Rise—IH versus Competition

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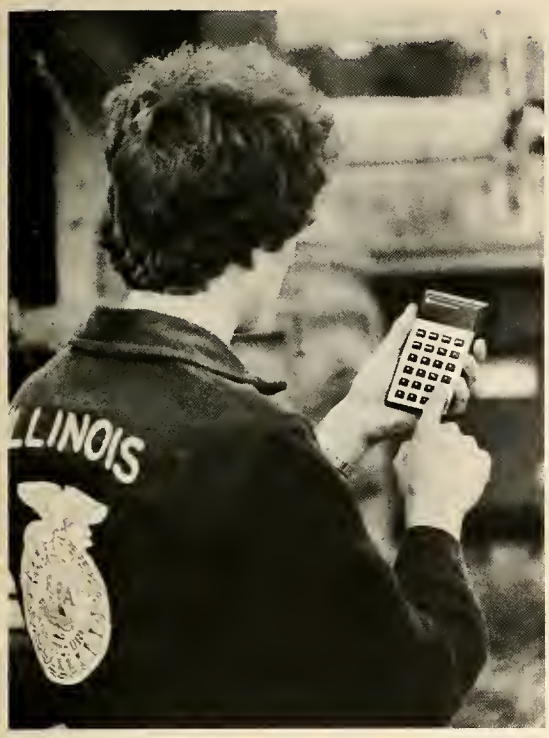


Pocket calculators, often called "mini-computers," can increase mathematical accuracy and reduce accounting time.

Farming By Computer

Mechanized farmhands can handle a variety of farm chores, from figuring books to rationing feed.

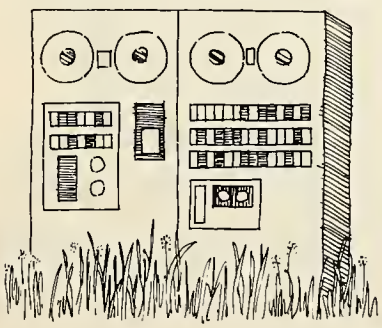
SOMEWHERE, somehow, a computer knows your name. It may also know your address, age and telephone number. It may know if you've had traffic tickets, bad grades or the measles. If you farm, a computer probably knows how many bushels and calves you grow on your place. But don't be unnerved. The computer is, in all its wisdom, a mere machine. Its function is to serve, not to control. In fact, computers have been faithful servants to agriculture for some time now. Chances are, that service will continue to grow.

Tom Meyer is a "master" of a computer. Tom works in the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His job as computer systems analyst puts him in control of a computer that processes loan information for farmers in need of financial aid. Tom wrote the national cotton loan "program," actually a plan of formulas and data needed by the computer to calculate correct results.

"Nearly every agency in USDA uses computers," says Tom. "Many of the 2,700 ASCS offices nationwide are now using programmable calculators, or mini-computers, to figure loans. If figured manually, most loans are difficult and time-consuming. With the programmable calculator, you can do the job in one hour instead of eight."

The programmable calculator (PC) resembles the calculator you may use in algebra or vo-ag class. However, the PC is unique in its capability to store different formulas and perform mathematical operations in a planned, functional sequence.

"You can do everything on a programmable calculator that you do on a computer," explains Tom. "It just can't do as much at one time. Though many offices have calculators, ASCS still maintains a large, central computer in Kansas City that processes data sent by ASCS offices. We not only figure loans



with computers but calculate deficiency payments, reconstitute forms if a farmer's operational scope changes and even do aerial photography."

Tom says the computer does not change the transaction between the farmer and ASCS. The only difference, as Tom puts it, is "farmers are impressed with how quickly they can complete their business with us. If you can cut the farmer's time in our office, he's happier. With the programmed calculator, the process is not only quicker but the farmer is insured that what we've done for him is correct. If we're provided the right input data (facts and figures fed to the machine), the farmer always gets the right answers."

The age of computers is not solely in government farm work. Computers and calculators are useful in many different situations in agriculture. But there's a difference between a "computer" and a "calculator."

Not long ago, the common pocket calculator could have passed for a powerful computer. The first calculators were large, loud and expensive machines that took several seconds to think out a problem and deliver an answer. As more and more people used them, the calculator evolved to its present state: portable, quiet, fast and affordable.

The computer could be termed a super-calculator, yet it's very different. Calculators work with numbers. They add, subtract, multiply and divide. PC's can perform operations but only a very limited number. Computers work not only with numbers, but with alphanumeric data—names, words, stock numbers. A computer can be programmed to repeat functions, logically evaluate information and act on its findings. It can store large volumes of data and even converse with its operator, ask-

(Continued on Page 36)

FFA Can Help Your Career

By Gerald Smith, Jr.

FFA activities can lead to the selection and pursuit of a career. One who can attest to this concept is Dr. Troy V. Majure, Jr., who has practiced veterinary medicine and been co-owner of an animal clinic in Clinton, Mississippi, for more than five years.

Active in many FFA activities in Mississippi while a member of the Utica Chapter, Troy Majure earned a State Farmer degree and served as state president of the FFA.

His childhood and teen years were filled with many experiences in relation to beef cattle coupled with an intense interest in animals in general. "I always felt like I'd become a veterinarian, at least since the age of 10," he said.

When asked which FFA activities help him most in pursuit of his career, Dr. Majure named the beef cattle and public speaking programs.

Dr. Majure raised and showed beef cattle before he was old enough to join the FFA and continued through college. His skill and practical experience with beef cattle helped pay his way through Mississippi State and Auburn Universities and was a big factor in establishing an understanding of the health problems of farm animals.

FFA member Troy Majure with a champion heifer. He is presently a veterinarian and co-owner of a clinic.

"FFA public speaking," Majure said, "helped me in preparation for college and made it easier for me to assume leadership roles in civic and religious activities." Majure won the state FFA public speaking contest during his junior year in high school. He was also an honor student in both high school and college.

Dr. Majure stresses several ingredients which are important for pursuing a career as a veterinarian. These include establishing a goal, gaining practical experience with animals, concentration on all levels of study (math, science, etc.), selling yourself and your plan and learning to understand people.

Practicing veterinary medicine is time consuming requiring from 60 to 70 working hours per week. A veterinarian is also subject to being on call beyond working hours but Dr. Majure finds his work satisfying and rewarding.

"You treat sick pets and deal psychologically with the pet's owner. Your FFA activities can help you, especially in learning to understand and work with people. Remember, many people depend on pets, including young folks and shut-ins. You must learn to cope with these people under very emotional circumstances," he said.

While establishing himself in his veterinary practice, Majure experienced one of the same difficulties anyone going into small business encounters—finance. "Where a human doctor has an established hospital to work from, a veterinarian has to invest in a clinic which must include facilities to keep and adequately care for sick animals. The key to establishing our clinic was to sell our plan to our financers," Majure said. Dr. Majure sold his plan and is now reaping the benefit of success he has planned for through years of hard work and determination.

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The Roots of a Name

IF YOU had just made a contraption out of a few metal bars and blades, one that would tear through acres of hardened soil, would you dub it "plow"? Or how about "disc"? Better yet, who ever thought up "moldboard" or "chisel" or "harrow"?

Names come from everywhere. Sometimes they describe the machine to its fullest, like "seeder" or "spreader." But more often than not, implement names have hidden meanings, "roots" that are covered with a layer of history.

Such is the case with the combine. Modern rotary combines are the result of 100 years development experience. The name took some development too.

As recently as 1923, big-scale farmers in Montana wheat country were calling the machines by their correct and proper name: "combined harvester and thresher." Since then, the term's been shortened into the single word we now use to talk about grain harvesting machines, says George Eastman, product manager for combines at Sperry New Holland.

From the time of Abraham to George Washington, farmers cut and threshed grain by hand. Cutting was usually by sickle or reaping hook. Threshing was by flail or animal treading. Either way, sheaves of grain were spread out on a threshing floor for the operation. Raking off the straw came next. This was followed by separating grain and chaff.

Most of the progress came since the death of George Washington, First, the grain cradle replaced the sickle. Threshing was a wintertime task. In the summer you had your hands full enough to just get the wheat cradled, bundled and hauled into the barn. There was no time to swing the flail. And all the grain was flail-threshed. Before the Civil War, threshing was already going mechanical over much of the country.

A combined harvester-thresher was invented by Hiram Moore. After tinkering with it for a while, he more or less got it working in 1853. A herd of horses pulled and powered it. It was ahead of its time.

When the time for the combine came, it was too large and expensive for most farms but big "bonanza" farms of the West were just right for it, according to the biggest bonanza farmer of them all, Thomas Campbell.

During the World War I food crisis, Campbell farmed hundreds of thousands of acres that stretched miles wide from north to south. His observation on the 24-foot cut machines was: "Only seven men are required to operate this wonderful combined harvester and thresher."

The name was almost seven times too large. So farmers shortened it to "combine" in much less time than it took manufacturers to lower the operation requirements from seven men to one. That's how we got the name.

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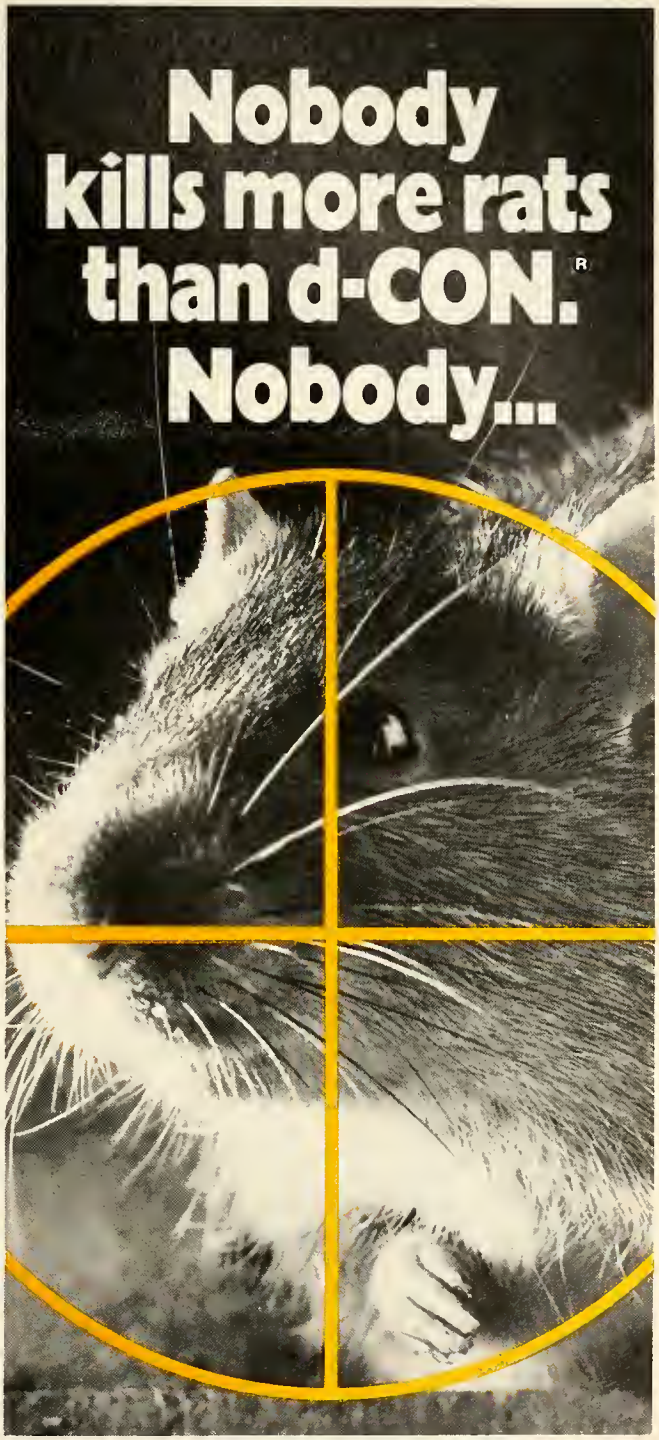

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Computer

(Continued from Page 31)

ing questions like, "I don't understand that word. Can you explain?"

Both computers and calculators have served many areas of agriculture. Through the use of computer models, or simulations, agricultural engineers have found ways to control feedlot runoff and implement water quality programs. By using a budget and a computer, a farmer can make sound decisions in a farm management program. Computer terminals —stations that send and receive input and output—give ranchers the latest hog and beef prices and facilitate trading.

Some computers will talk to you on the phone. By dialing a number, the Agriculture Weather System, or Green Thumb, will provide the latest weather, agricultural and market information on your TV screen. The service may soon be available nationwide for rent or purchase.

Though you may already be indirectly affected by computers, you can have direct access to these "figuring machines." Many colleges and universities are requiring at least one course in computer technology. More and more electronic equipment is showing up on farms across America.

"Computers will continue to separate the men from the boys in terms of management ability," says Dr. Buel Lanpher, program leader for farm management in the USDA's Science and Education Administration (SEA). "In the last year and a half there's been a boom in interest among farmers in mini-computers. Extension Service offices in most heavy agricultural states are hearing questions from farmers regarding the usefulness of the computer. Many farmers are getting into it as a hobby, then applying the computer to their operations."

Dr. Lanpher sees three options for a farmer regarding computer use. "First," he says, "you can use the programmable calculator. Usually you can get programs at a university and run them, or learn to write your own. Secondly, there's the 'dumb' terminal, or one that resembles a typewriter with a phone hook-up. You can dial into a computer located far away and punch in commands on your terminal. The computer then responds on a printout issued from your terminal. Finally, the farmer can purchase and use a micro-computer."

Lanpher cautions against the blind purchase of a computer. Most microcomputer systems run between $1,600 and $5,000, with programs such as personal finance, feed rationing, marketing, budget analysis and cow-culling lists costing from $20 each to $300 a month for complete business systems and maintenance. Some small computers may be rented at prices starting at $1,800 per month.

The owner of a computer must know a great deal about the system's workings in order to make the unit economically feasible. Some programs, such as herd improvement records, could be used regularly enough to keep the operator familiar with the procedure. However, Dr. Lanpher says, "If you own a computer, you must have enough expertise to productively use software (computer programs). The operator must know what goes on in the program." Obviously, owning a computer can be an aid to farm management or a very costly piece of furniture.

Should you wish to apply a computer program in your farming or agribusiness project, buying a computer is not your only choice. Extension agencies, many of which are located at postsecondary institutions, often have computer software and hardware (the actual machinery) available for use.

"Some institutions have a computerized farm management record keeping system," says Fred Thorpe of USDA's Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service (ESCS). "The set-up varies but usually the farmer pays a fairly nominal fee for the service. The farmer provides input from records, the computer processes the information and an accounting division analyzes the results. The data is then summarized for the farmer and also aggregated with other farmers' results. Thus, the producer receives both a report on his farm and a comparison of similar operations."

Kansas State University has implemented an extensive system of farm management aid. Not only does the farmer receive a printout, or printed record of computer input and output, he also receives an analysis of his records and farm management assistance, if needed. The University of Missouri, another leading institution in computer assistance for farmers, has initiated a remote terminal system. Terminals located in field offices throughout the state are utilized by local farmers who type data on the terminal and send it via telephone wire to a central computer on the university campus. The farmer simply waits for his printout in the field office.

Computer printouts such as the one above can summarize a farm operation and reveal needed information in a categorized manner.

Should you wish to use an extension computer system, first make an appointment. You will need to supply accurate data in the correct form. Classes, meetings and media campaigns are often organized by the extention service to train those wishing to use computer wizardry in management chores.

ESCS figures show that miscellaneous farm business expenses jumped a half billion dollars over the last three years. The figure includes expenses for record keeping and office equipment. Farm and agribusiness management is a constant challenge for today's farmer. Tomorrow's farmer will be even more precise with farm and business figures. A computer or calculator may prove to be a helping hand in your operation.

Dr. Richard Rudel of SEA says, "The computer is no better than the data you put into it and the program used to analyze your input. A farmer must keep good records to begin with."

The "figuring machine" won't make mistakes. No matter how prevalent computers and calculators become in farming, the operator will still be responsible for the important farm business decisions.

"It says it will be on vacation from the 3rd to the 20th inclusive."

Store Manure Safely

A DEADLY bomb may lurk in your manure storage unit. Without warning, the right spark could set off a blast.

Toxic gases such as ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide are released from decomposing manure. Even extremely low concentrations can cause headaches, irritation of the respiratory tract, nausea and dizziness.

Higher amounts can kill. If one-tenth of 1 percent of the available air is lethal gas, fainting and death can occur with little or no warning.

Many individuals have fallen victim to manure gases. The National Safety Council suggests several precautions that can reduce the hazards of stored fertilizer.

Adequate ventilation is of utmost importance to keep gas concentrations low. Exhaust fans and a stand-by power system are listed as good investments in safety. Doors and windows should be opened when agitating manure, and the operator should stay out of the storage area. If a manure pit must be entered, use a self-contained breathing device and a safety harness with rope. If you're wearing the harness and get trapped in a chamber, others won't have to risk entering the unit to pull you out.

Good waste management will not only reduce danger but better maintain the overall nutrient value of your manure.

The plant nutrient content of animal manure varies with animal species, the amount of bedding or litter, losses of the liquid portion and handling. Since half the nutrient content is in the liquid, effort should be made to reduce liquid losses. Adequate bedding materials and proper inspection of storage facilities are two musts.

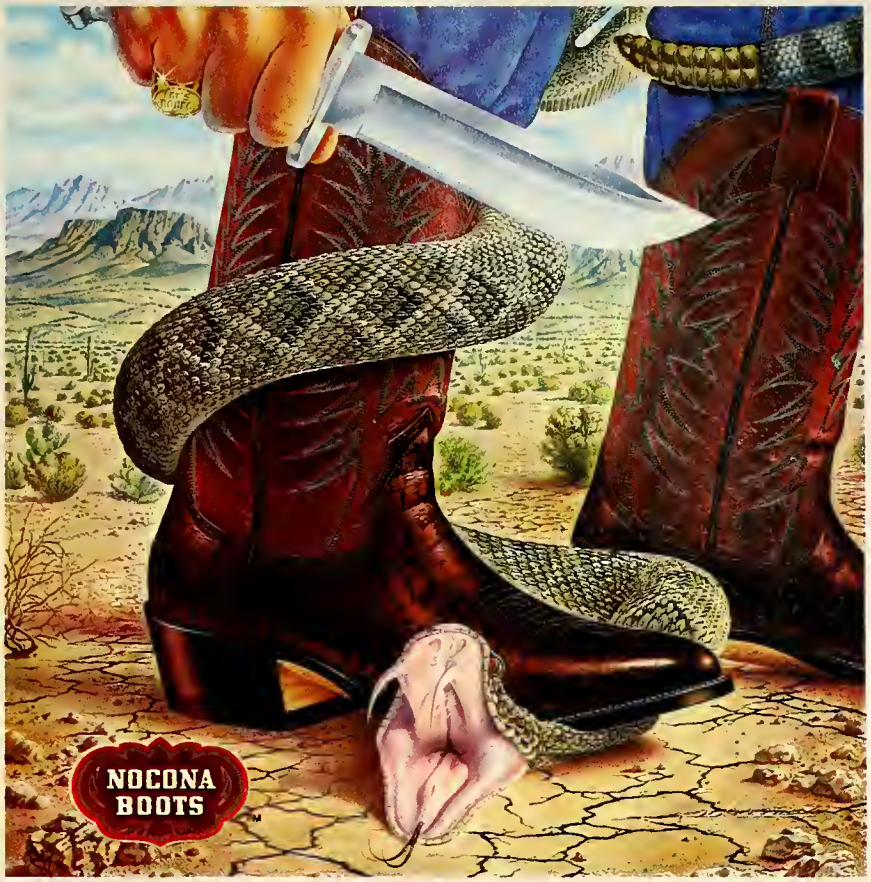
To save nutrient content when applying, incorporate manure into the soil as soon after spreading as possible, or better yet, inject it with attachments on the tank wagon. More power is used but up to 20 percent of the nitrogen may be saved, odors are eliminated and run-off pollution is reduced.

Sperry New Holland, makers of fertilizer equipment, outline a few no-no's when handling manure.

Do Not:

- store or pile and leave uncovered
- spread on snow
- spread on hard-frozen steep hillsides
- pull heavy spreaders across muddy fields

By using good judgment, you can turn a pile of waste into a useful resource for production and profit.



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The Coming of The City

Near the borders of the Smith family ranch, new houses stand where once there was grazing land—and construction continues.

By Jeffrey Tennant

NOTHING unusual about a beef ranch in central Colorado—the state harbors many sprawling cattle feedlots and endless acres of feed-producing cropland. But Kevin Smith, an FFA member from Golden, Colorado, lives on a ranch set apart from the norm. First, not many farms run purebred polled black Limousin cattle and, second, most aren't threatened by a creeping destruction—urban encroachment.

Kevin, 19, is one-third owner of the known and respected Smith Cattle Company. Long attached to the cattle business, Kevin helps manage the 2,000-acre ranch with his dad, Louie, and mom, Teddy. The Smith family's 400 head of cows and calves include many champion animals. A rare, polled black Limousin bull that recently brought $50,000 in a half-interest sale roams the Smith pasture. The bull's semen, representative of the Smiths' goal to produce a fine line of breeding stock, sells for $400 per ampule.

Cruising the ranch in Kevin's four-wheel drive truck, the future of the Smith Cattle Company seems bright. Good pasture, fat cattle, well-placed fence, a sturdy feedlot. But once atop the highest point of the spread, a burgeoning culprit rears its head. Just to the east, visible through the pipes of the Smith grain-handling system, the rooftops of suburbia seem to march ever outward. And with the coming of the city, some five years ago, problems previously unknown to the Smiths began an unwelcome pestering.

"The city is slowly moving here," says Kevin, surveying the cluttered horizon as the cool Colorado breeze skims the hilltop. "Not long ago, over 1,200 people a month were moving in. Still a lot of construction going on everywhere."

Kevin sees tending cattle in his future but one question remains—where?

Photos by Author

The reason for the growth? Jobs. And plenty of them. An atomic plant, a uranium mine and the national headquarters for solar energy research all operate within a few miles of the Smith place. Also close by is the Coors brewery, a business that, according to Louie Smith, "employs half the town of Golden, owns the most land in Colorado and possesses the biggest natural gas field, coal mines and most water rights."

Louie, a Colorado state FFA officer in 1950 and an American Farmer, bought the Smith farm some 30 years ago. "When I first bought," he recalls, "I was in the dairy business. I bought this 17 acres with the house, dairy barn and irrigated land for $27,000. I eventually got tired of milking cows, bought the pastureland and started in beef. Now land around here is going for as much as $5 per square foot." Considering 43,560 square feet per acre, that's $217,800 an acre for suburban and commercial land. Most of the Smith farm acreage is better suited for cows instead of houses. Nonetheless, a recent appraisal set the value of the Smith ranch at $350,000.

With such an appreciation rate on the land, the effect of urban sprawl on land value may seem desirable. But unless a farmer begins liquidating land, the appreciated land value brings expense instead of income.

"Taxes 20 years ago on the property," remembers Louie, "were $375 per year. Now it's up to $2,500. It'll keep going up, too, and nothing we can do will stop it. If we take the cattle off, taxes will be even higher. I can just see us paying city tax on cattle."

In the U.S. tax structure, taxes usually rise sharply when land values increase. Some states have taken legislative action to ease the burden felt by the landowning farmer. In North Carolina, the Farmland Taxation Act was passed in 1973 after average land value per acre doubled in less than ten years. Under this legislation, qualifying farmland may be assessed and taxed on the basis of current use value rather than market value of potential development. Many states are moving toward a tax break for farmland but many farmers remain faced with rising taxes.

The Smiths aren't alone in their plight. According to a report issued by the Urban Land Institute (ULI), a Washington-based research and educational organization, the fastest growing areas in the United States since 1970 have been small cities, towns and open country communities located outside large metropolitan centers. The Smiths, surrounded by growing Denver suburbs such as Wheatridge, Arvada and Golden, are one example of a family pressed by progressive land development.

In the distance, the eastern hillside is covered with the clutter of new buildings, reason enough for Kevin to ponder his family's farming future.

"When the city started growing," says Kevin, "more and more trespassers came to the farm. At night, drivers of all-terrain trucks and motorcycles would cut our fences and drive over the pasture. They've even jerked out wooden fenceposts and built bonfires. I've found broken posts and wire where people have taken close-range target practice with their rifles. And the law can't catch them."

Although the intruders' visits have slacked off—Louie says it's because of the fuel shortage—the Smiths have resolved to leave the farm. They're currently searching for another place—a place where their land will be unmolested, a place where land expansion won't mean financial burden from city taxes. "We've got to find an irrigated farm further out so we can raise our own feed and expand," says Kevin.

If the 2,000-acre Smith ranch is sold to residential developers or industry, the acreage will join the ranks of statistics showing decreasing amounts of land farmed in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 2.7 million acres of cropland are lost each year—500,000 to urbanization and development of public facilities and 2.2 million to less labor-intensive uses such as grass and trees. Creation through land management of 1.3 million acres of cropland per year offsets the loss but the net result is still a negative 1.4 million.

During 1950 to 1974, USDA studies show that urban areas gobbled up 17 million acres of rural land, more than a third of it cropland. In the case of pastureland, such as the Smiths', land area has dropped 20 million acres or 3 percent. A USDA briefing paper reports, "State and local governments have taken steps to bring order to urban development that infringes upon rural land. There is considerable doubt they have succeeded."

"Other local FFA members are having the same problem," shares Kevin. Butchered cattle in the field, constant traffic, trespassers pulling guns on landowners trying to protect their property—problems occurring more regularly as the city grows.

"It all stems from disrespect," says Louie, a tone of aggravation in his words. "People come here from the cities, buy an acre of ground and think it's the wild west. They might have three kids, buy a horse and a couple of dogs. Before long, the kids are on your property, the horse has eaten down the acre and is starving to death and the dogs are chasing your cattle. Kevin was practically raised in a barn, following his mother in her daily chores. At least he has respect for other's property."

Although Kevin says his future is in cattle, he and his father both say their farm will soon be absorbed by the city. Located on the only rural section the city hasn't annexed, or incorporated to the city domain, the Smiths give their farm another two to four years. Until then, the Smiths will keep looking for another farm, encouraged somewhat by Louie's hopeful thought: "Eventually the sprawl should stop. It's got to end somewhere."

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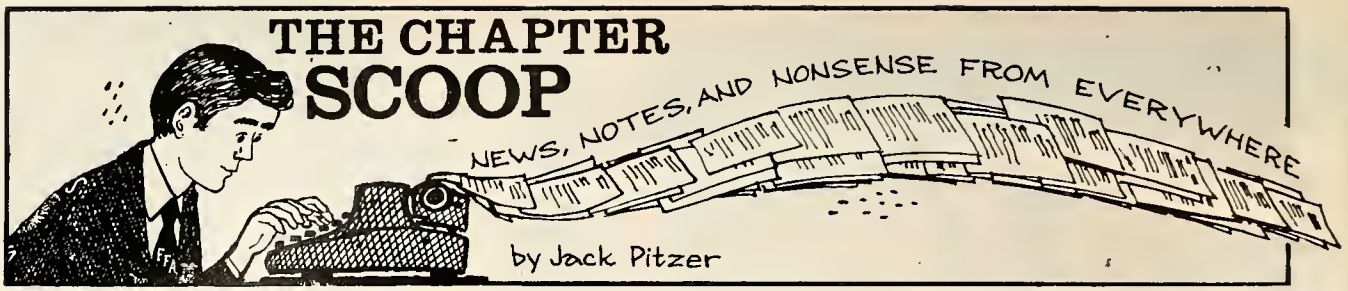


The annual Barnyard Boogie is a final event for *Coopersville,* MI, FFA WEEK.

N-N-N

"We sponsor a dairy and swine picture judging contest for all students and faculty during noon hour of FFA WEEK. Give $30 in prizes." *Mountain Lake,* MN.

N-N-N

There's a new FFA flag flying at *Ovid-Elsie,* MI, school.

N-N-N

FFA in *Taylorville,* IL, got extra mileage out of their FFA WEEK stacker display by moving it from one business place to another each day.

N-N-N

The reporter for *Sloan-Hendrix,* AR, Chapter says "this is my first news item for Scoop, but it won't be my last."

N-N-N

The dads of *Wheatland,* WY, kept alive their three-year streak of winning the big father versus son basketball game. It's a big event locally and one member announced the game for a local radio station.

N-N-N

A big exhibit for five chapters in a shopping mall was coordinated and manned by the *Lycoming,* PA, County FFA Alumni associates.

N-N-N

A different idea—chapter provided refreshments for PTA meeting during FFA WEEK in *Catoctin,* MD. President spoke on their program.

N-N-N

A local firm in *Marshfield,* WI, sponsored a 100-word essay contest for members "What FFA Means To Me" during FFA WEEK.

N-N-N

All the members of *West Concord,* MN, drove trucks to school on FFA WEEK Monday.

N-N-N

Officers of *Kelso,* WA, Chapter made apple cider to serve at monthly meeting.

N-N-N

When Advisor **Rick Crawford** decided to leave *Marysville,* OH, FFA and farm with his family, the chapter gave him a Yorkshire gilt to get started.

Waverly, NE, FFA has their own stereo system for the ag department and shop.

N-N-N

The cows all calved and they got 4,000 bales off *Kalispell,* MT, Chapter farm.

N-N-N

Triple crown winner at Iowa State Fair, *Eagle Grove* Chapter won supreme market swine, supreme purebred swine and supreme market lamb exhibitor awards.

N-N-N

Money raiser for *Hastings,* MN, is getting paid for washing and waxing International Harvester machinery to be displayed at state fair.

N-N-N

Two large potted ferns are "community ferns" for use at weddings and other community functions and available from FFA in *Wetumpka,* AL.

N-N-N

Greg Smith, Jeff Heidrick and **Jim Ohl,** of *Bismarck,* IL, FFA hold three of the four student council offices this year besides being FFA officers.

N-N-N

The alumni at *Bismarck,* IL, have an annual pig roast and hog raffle. Winning ticket is drawn at halftime of homecoming. Pig roast builds alumni memberships.

N-N-N

Carthage, MO, and *North Linn,* IA, FFA Chapters had an exchange visit this summer according to **Joe Butz,** reporter in North Linn.

N-N-N

Nicky Dronoff, reporter of *Dade City,* FL, writes of FFA July Fourth barbeque to raise $200 for local rescue squad.

N-N-N

The *Wright City,* MO, Chapter sponsored a bean clean to help area farmers get corn out of beans.

N-N-N

Corn roast for food and an egg throwing contest for fun between members and parents of *Amanda-Clearcreek,* OH, FFA. Was a reception for new members and new advisor.

N-N-N

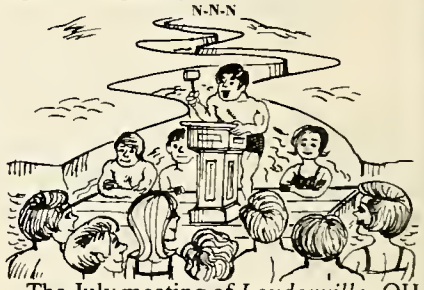
Sleepy Eye, NM, has a sweet corn eating contest. **DeLoy Beckner** ate his three ears in the fastest time.

Several new ideas for *Cory Rawson,* OH, FFA WEEK celebration included Cap Day—wear your favorite: Greenhand poster contest—winner gets FFA vest and posters go up around school to promote WEEK; hog calling contest for a representative from each club in school; and a coffee break from 5 a.m.-11 a.m. at a local farmer's diner.

N-N-N

They have a battle of the sexes to raise funds for United Way at *Philadelphia,* PA, Chapter with tug-o-war, foul shooting, running relay.

N-N-N



The July meeting of *Loudonville,* OH, was held at the Mohican water slide and everyone brought swim gear.

N-N-N

They say their "parly pro" team at *McEwen,* TN, has won the district contest for 15 years straight.

N-N-N

Murtaugh, ID, won a most participation award at the FFA district fitting and showing field day.

N-N-N

Each member narrated that part of the member project slide show about his supervised program, *Naches,* WA.

N-N-N

They're still painting hands green for initiations in FFA. *Albert Lea,* MN. Greenhands have to show their green hands during parents' night.

N-N-N

The *Placentia,* CA, FFA ag boosters delivered three meals a day during county fair, so FFA'ers could get decent food and not have to live on corn dogs.

N-N-N

Old and new officers of *Denton,* TX, got together at a camp for training plus they caught enough fish for a big fry.

N-N-N

Be sure to have your chapter's delegates to the National FFA Convention give a full report of the business sessions—not just the fun they had.

N-N-N

Always anxious to get newsy letters from FFA members with ideas to share with other members.

Before competing, FFA member John Hoffman of Whitewater, Wisconsin, carefully checks the engine of his micro mini tractor.

Micro Mini Tractor Pull

By Rod Vahl

THE tractor looks like a toy, but 16-year-old John Hoffman will quickly demonstrate that his miniature John Deere 4020 is anything but a toy.

Instead, it is a micro mini tractor puller that will power itself down a 16-foot wooden track, grinding its gears while pulling a sled weighing nearly 100 pounds!

John, a high school junior and FFA member, normally sleeps in his bedroom on the family farm in Whitewater, Wisconsin, but on many weekends he lives in motels throughout several midwest states, competing in mini tractor pulls sponsored by the new but rapidly growing National Micro Mini Tractor Pullers Association. In February, John rode with other mini tractor competitors to Davenport, Iowa, to compete in the Second Annual Winter Nationals.

John is always eager to explain mini tractors to the newcomer, saying, "There are four divisions—stock, super stock, hot rods, and four-wheel drive road vehicles."

Displaying his stock division entry, John explains, "A stock tractor must originate from a two-wheel drive farm tractor model at 1/16 scale. The motor can be no larger than a .051 reed valve, but you can go up to .20 for the hot rods."

The young farmer explains that the mini tractor must retain the tractor-like appearances of the original model, such as the body, seat, steering wheel, and hood.

The tractor pullers are fierce in competition such as the Winter Nationals where over 80 mini tractor enthusiasts from seven midwest states converged for a one-day meet.

John explains the procedures. "We pull down a 16-foot wooden track that's two-feet wide. You get two attempts and four feet to start the sled moving. It's an official pull when the skid plate crosses the four foot mark. The tractor pulling the sled the longest distance down the track wins."

Sitting at a portable mechanic's bench, John works on his hot rod entry as he explains costs for his stock model: $55 gearbox, $40 Cox .051 motor, $25 tires, $10 body and $7 for weights—a cost of $137.

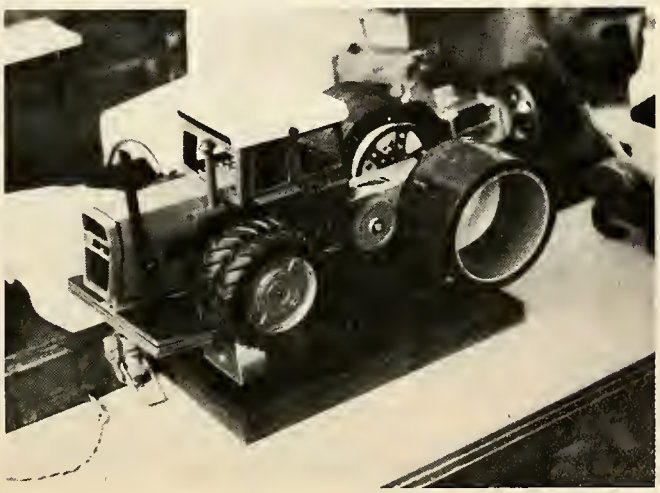
When he adds fuels, tools, and miscellaneous items, the costs reach approximately $200 for an original investment.

But John feels the costs are nominal in return for the enjoyment and challenge. In his travels to meets, he makes friends with many mini tractor fans from all walks of life—farmers, mechanical engineers, agricultural teachers, college students, and other high school youths.

Though the teenager hasn't won any big tourney trophies since he caught the mini tractor puller's bug last fall, John Hoffman, Jr., isn't about to quit—he'll be guiding that mini tractor down the track until he captures that big award.

13-year-old Wally Haste of Donovan, Illinois, steers his micro puller over the 16-foot stretch of wooden track.

Micro mini tractors such as the one below often represent a sizeable investment for the builder—from $150 to $200.



FFA IN ACTION

The FFA parade entry honored the locomotive as one of the real hard working "horses" of the past. Their community is an old railroad town so the float was a hit.

THE HORSE WITH WHEELS

Each year the Miles City, Montana, Jaycees sponsor a famous bucking horse sale. As part of the celebration they also sponsor a "Bucking Horse Parade!" First prize money for a float was $300 which FFA won.

The specific theme of the bucking horse sale was "The Best of the West." Our thought was to connect the "Iron Horse" (Indian name for locomotive) to bucking, or just horses which were so important to the development of the West.

The float was built by all the vo-ag classes, both in class and every evening the week before the parade. The chapter financed the building of it. It's all steel so it will be stored outside for the first few years.

We bought a 1940 Chevy truck to build a river boat float on the year before. So this chassis was cleaned off and the locomotive welded on permanently. I found the cab out in the country while visiting and it looked too good to leave. Miles City is an old railroad town and we should honor the railroaders at some of our celebrations.

We will continue to improve the locomotive with revolving wheels and cranks, whistle, permanent bell, coal and water tender. We make smoke from the stack by adding diesel fuel to the engine intake by means of a valve in the operator's cab. The exhaust manifold has been split three ways to alter the sound. We extended all the controls of the old truck up to the engineer's cab.

The cab came from an "about 1912" 30-60 Titan tractor. The boiler is made from rusted out fuel tanks. The domes are old hot water tanks cut off to the length we desired. We fabricated the stack and light from tubing and junk. A good coat of black paint and some aluminum strips gave it character.

It is our intent to run this float in many parades. We have had many, many fine comments from the people on this one. The FFA was very proud of this chapter endeavor. *(James Michels, Advisor)*

LEARNING BY DOING IT THE OLD WAY

Learning by doing is a primary ideal of the FFA organization and Monroeville, Ohio, members have been doing just that. Their learning experiences revolved around their BOAC project and took place at the Huron County Fairgrounds, with one major twist—they were learning how things were done in the 1800's.

It took place as part of the Agricultural Heritage Display, an annual part of the Huron County Fair.

FFA members moved, intact, a corn crib, circa 1850, to the fairgrounds, placed it on a permanent foundation using tiles as was done in the 1800's. They also removed the old roof and replaced it with new cedar shingles.

A barn 32 feet by 48 feet of the 1800's was donated and moved to the heritage site. The hand-hewn beams were reassembled using original wooden pegs. FFA members helped re-roof the barn with cedar shingles prior to the start of the fair. Using lumber sawed at the site by a steam-powered sawmill the FFA members sided the barn during the fair using the board and batten technique popular at that time. After the barn siding was complete the members re-sided the corn crib.

More than 30,000 visitors observed the barn siding as it progressed as well as visited the more than 75 exhibits in the agricultural heritage display which included a sawmill, steam thresher, stationary baler, many antique tractors, engines and tools of all sorts.

Del Donahue from a Cleveland television station spent an entire afternoon at the display filming the many activities, including the barn siding, to be aired on his special "Del's Folks" feature. Other activities in the heritage display included chair caning, quilting, leather work, bucket and soap making and numerous other almost-lost arts. *(Bob Schaffer, Reporter)*

Chariton Courier Photo

COLD SERVICE

Members of the Keytesville, Missouri, FFA Chapter gave their time and equipment during last winter's snows to aid the senior citizens of their community in the job of snow removal. Jack Wright, BOAC chairmon and Jody Jones, chapter secretary, organized the snow removal effort which assisted senior citizens in removing snow from their walks and driveways.

(Continued on Page 50)

"The skills you learn in the Army Guard do a lot of people a lot of good."

Arthur Ashe

Arthur Ashe, Wimbledon Champion

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FALCON LADY

The challenges of taming the wild face a former FFA member striving to become a special kind of naturalist—master falconer.

By Jack Clancy

THE blue business card reads simply, "It's An Animal's World," and displays a logo of a great horned owl silhouetted against a world globe. "Together," it says, "we'll discover the secrets of the wild ones." A phone number on the card will put you in touch with Paul and Dianne LeFrancois.

The business card doesn't reveal the series of moves that led Paul and Dianne to their present plateau of expertise in the field of wildlife. Nor does it reveal the part played by the Future Farmers of America in developing the young couple's knowledge of the wild.

Dianne's career in the out-of-doors probably started during a visit to a relative's farm in Michigan. The visit, made during Dianne's formidable junior high school days, created an impression that would lead her through a number of wildlife ventures. Those ventures have culminated in her present status as the distaff half of a naturalist lecture team and its expert on falconry.

Following her Michigan visit, Dianne volunteered at a local farm on weekends. When the time came she enrolled in a high school agricultural course and joined the FFA. Little did she realize she would become the first practicing female falconer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

It wasn't easy being the only girl in a class with 20 boys. Dianne recalls that many times in the field she had to keep reminding herself that "I am here felling trees and cutting brush because I want to be felling trees and cutting brush." Girls are not always taken seriously when they enter the "macho" world of the outdoors. The outdoors is sometimes considered the exclusive bailiwick of the male.

But the experience stood her well for she was to meet with similar difficulty in her attempt to join the exclusive fraternity of falconers—but not without good reason. Falconry requires, actually de-

Dianne and "Habiba" work together using a silent, yet firm, communication.

At left, Dianne offers a well-protected perch garnished with a treat for Habiba's landing. Above, the license attached to Dianne's belt is required by law for falconry.

Photos by Jack Swedberg, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

mands, a dedication you don't find in other sports.

For the uninitiated, falconry is one of the most ancient of hunting sports. The "sport of kings" for 11th century Mongols, falconry was reserved for royalty with a gyrfalcon for a king, a merlin for a page and a kestrel for the queen. Aside from a few modern changes in the equipment, the sport is the same today as when Genghis Khan ruled ancient Asia in the year 1200.

As an active FFA member, Dianne earned the respect of her peers and represented her class at the National Convention in Kansas City in 1972. She recalls spending as much time as possible visiting the zoos in and around Kansas City. "We had a lot of workshops and meetings," she recalls, "but they gave us plenty of time to travel locally."

Back at Burncoat High School in Worcester, Massachusetts, Dianne chose the Worcester Science Center for her work study program. The Science Center, then a new complex, boasted a small zoo and a good collection of native wild animals. The complex is sponsored by the Worcester Natural History Society, one of the oldest in the country. While working at the center, Dianne's fascination for predatory birds became an obsession. It was also here that she would meet and marry Paul LeFrancois, zookeeper and herpetologist.

Henry Rouba, Dianne's FFA advisor at Burncoat, remembers Dianne as a shy girl with strangers but open and honest with those she knew. "As a student," Rouba recalls, "she was excellent. I wish I had more like her. One thing an educator always hopes for is a student you can work with."

Upon graduation, Dianne was hired by the Science Center and placed in charge of the animal room. She was responsible for the daily diets of all animals and the work schedules of at least 30 young volunteers. In this job, Dianne's early FFA training paid dividends.

While at the Science Center, Dianne supervised an $8,000 per year food budget, set training schedules for new volunteers and administered medications under the direction of the veterinarian and zoo director. She also gave live animal demonstrations before large groups of visitors. The duties, she admits, were demanding and not altogether easy. She credits her ability to think for herself and do "what had to be done" to her training and travel in FFA programs. "Also," she says, "FFA taught me to study and to talk to people who were interested in the same things that I was."

During this time Dianne trained her first falcon—a female kestrel, or sparrow hawk, she named Kittyhawk. "I made a lot of mistakes with Kittyhawk," she admits. "Too many people handled her. It confused her and eventually caused her death."

Shortly after their marriage, Paul and Dianne left the Science Center and set up their lecture service. In 1978, Dianne was finally admitted to the world of the falconer but not until she passed a stiff written test administered by biologists of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. She was then presented a young red-tailed hawk by her sponsor, one of the few licensed falconers in the entire state. Dianne named the hawk Habiba, an Arabic word meaning "sweetheart."

Husband Paul, in the meantime, had been licensed by the state as a "rehabilitator" because of his wide experience in the care and handling of wild animals.

Paul has rehabilitated and released a variety of birds and animals including screech owls, barred owls, a red-tailed hawk and a red fox that Habiba discovered in a leg-hold trap (illegally set). A turkey vulture that lost an argument with a power line was in the process of being mended and has since been sent to an animal farm where it will spend the rest of its years.

What does the future hold for these enterprising naturalists?

It will take many years before Dianne reaches her goal of a master falconer. Meanwhile, the lecture service is demanding more and more of the couple's spare evenings and weekends.

Dianne likes to compare her accomplishments with the instincts and attributes of the great horned owl. She says she always wanted to bring a great horned owl to her class in high school. She learned, she says, that a great horned owl, any owl, does not have the wisdom attributed to them in literature and mythology—but they are still smart enough to get by with what they have.

"That's what the FFA taught me," she says. "To use what you've got. Because when you do, you soon discover that you can do some things you never thought you could."

And who's going to argue with a pretty lady with a big hawk sitting on her wrist?

FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 44)

DELIVERY SERVICE

When Dave Harmon visited the National FFA Center with his fellow state officers this summer they talked him into telling about the experience he had had of helping deliver a baby. The editors have asked Dave to tell his story for you.

"When I became 16 years old I joined the Blue Ridge Mountain Ambulance and Rescue Squad and the Blue Ridge Mountain Volunteer Fire Company.

"Shortly after joining I was accepted into an Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) course in Maryland. The course consisted of 84 hours of emergency care and vehicle rescue. After completion of the course we were given a written exam and also a five-station practical examination.

"I have been a member of the squad for two years. The squad consists of about 60 members who are all volunteers. We have three ambulances, a rescue squad and a chief's car. The squad serves four counties in Maryland and Pennsylvania. We run about 1,000 calls annually.

"On one exciting call, the ambulance was dispatched to a mobile home on High Rock Road at 6:33 a.m. We knew as soon as we arrived that a baby would have to be delivered.

"The mother was placed in the ambulance where we could be assured of sterile conditions. The ambulance was backed out of the driveway onto the road in case complications arose and a quick trip to the hospital was necessary.

"Everything went smoothly and at 6:45 a.m. the mother gave birth to a baby boy. It was my first experience in delivering a child. I wasn't particularly nervous, I just kept my mind on what I was doing.

"Delivering the baby has to be about the most gratifying experience I've had as an EMT. The reason for this is because it is more rewarding to bring a new life into the world than to see one end." *(Dave Harmon)*

THE FFA TOOK OVER THE HOSPITAL

The Big Walnut, Ohio, FFA Chapter recently donated $1,328.41 to Children's Hospital in Columbus. The donation was the largest amount ever received from an FFA chapter so the hospital sponsored a "Take Over Day" for the chapter.

Tim Mackley, chapter president, worked in the post natal care unit of the hospital for his experience station.

The money had been raised through an FFA operated food concession with the FHA, through a sale of county maps and through a work day when members donated $8 of their wages to this project.

The "Take Over Day" was a true learning experience from beginning to end. In the morning, a tour of the hospital was conducted and students got to really see where the money is used and what it's really like "inside" a hospital.

After lunch, each member was assigned to a department within the hospital, like administration, building and grounds maintenance, child life, clinics, data processing, dietary, education/personnel, housekeeping, laboratories, laundry, medical records, nuclear medicine, nursing, occupational/physical therapy, patient management, public relations, radiology, research, respiratory, security, social services and volunteers.

THEY MADE A MOUND INTO A BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN

On the campus of Parlier, California, High School was a huge football stadium built years ago above the ground with man-made mounds for side. Dirt was hauled from all over the valley to erect berms to build upon—each side was 200 feet long and 40 feet high.

Over the years, no one had successfully managed to get adequate ground cover started or growing. Nor had the area been particularly well maintained.

So in 1978 a plan, with a theme "Mountains of Enlightenment," began to take shape to do something about these mounds covered with weeds and trash. The school and its community had come to a point that the eyesore had jeopardized their pride.

FFA came into the picture, with the push of Advisor Robert Hunt, to take the lead and do this mountainous job.

First they consulted with professionals in landscaping and horticulture and the staff at a nearby college horticulture department. Soil testing, to determine what the mix was really like since it had been hauled in from everywhere, was a must.

The horticulture vo-ag took this work on as a special project. They also started beans hydroponically and then transplanted them around the berms to check growability.

After testing, the design phase came into being. A bush-type Rosemary plant that is green year-round was selected for the north and south ends of the stadium berms.

Obviously the junk and debris had to be hauled away or burned before real progress could start. Here's where the community got its chance to pitch in and help haul, furnish tractors and trucks and generally pitch in.

All-in-all, the chapter put out 3,600 plants. Besides the planting which included digging holes, mixing peat and fertilizer, the FFA designed a sprinkler irrigation system to keep the big plantings growing.

A special addition to the berms is a large "P" on each side of the stadium. They are 18 feet long, and designed to hold a border of annual plants.

The completed project has been recognized with a presidential citation from the Environmental Protection Agency according to *The Fresno Bee*.

It is an example of how fired up and motivated FFA members can spread their enthusiasm to the community.

SELL AND SEE THE WORLD

Each year the Indian Creek FFA at Trafalgar, Indiana, makes homemade ice cream at the Johnson County fair. This year we made about 385 gallons and increased our treasury $2,700. The members who sign up to work in the ice cream tent work two five-hour shifts throughout the week of the fair. For their efforts they receive a new FFA T-shirt, a farm cap, the opportunity to go on our summer camping trip and all the ice cream they can eat.

This year on our three-day trip, we went touring our neighboring state of Kentucky. Our first stop was at Fort Knox to see the Patton Museum and the gold vault, where much of the U.S. gold supplies are kept. We went to see where Abraham Lincoln was born and finally reached our destination of Mammoth Cave National Park. We pitched six tents, cooked out, went swimming, climbed the hills and trails and went on a water slide, in addition to going on tours through the cave. We also took a tour

through Diamond Caverns. On our trip home we stopped in Bardstown to see "My Old Kentucky Home" and at Claibourne Farms near Paris, Kentucky, we saw Secretariat, Riva Ridge and other famous and valuable stallions.

This year, as in past years, we tried to plan a trip that was educational as well as recreational. We always take along one or two couples from our young farmer and/or adult farm organizations. *(Joe Park, Advisor)*

EASTERN STARS

Each year the large Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts has a number of FFA events for the states in FFA's eastern region. Some of the judging contests are dairy cattle, milk quality and dairy foods, floriculture and livestock.

In addition, the exposition has events like public speaking contests and tractor driving. They also pick from the state Star Farmers (who had been the tops among the State Farmer degree winners) an Eastern States Exposition Star Farmer. This year it was John Miller, a 20-year-old dairy farmer of Massachusetts.

THEY HAD THEIR OWN PARADE

The Spring Creek, Louisiana, FFA

John Miller, of Massachusetts, second from left with last year's national President Mark Sanborn, was named Eastern States Expo Star Farmer.

Some of the contests held to involve FFA members from all of the states in FFA's eastern region included livestock judging and dairy products selection.

(Continued on Page 52)

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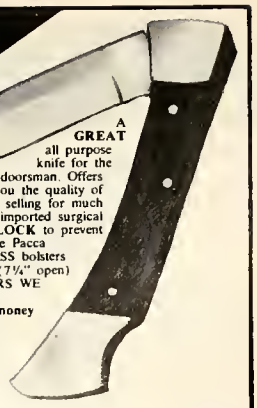

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FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 51)

Chapter hosted their own parade to highlight National FFA WEEK.

Former members and past chapter presidents joined the festivities with cars and tractors, along with the Kentwood Fire Department, the Tangipahoa Federation FFA Officers and the sheriff's posse. Active chapter members decorated cars, trucks, motocycles and tractors. Others entered riding horses.

Trophies were awarded to those entering the best decorated car, tractor and float with local businessmen serving as judges.

The parade was held in Kentwood, Louisiana, with Mayor Nick Saladine serving as Grand Marshal. Other honored participants were Parish Sheriff Frank Edwards, Senator W. E. "Bill" Dykes, Representative Ty Cobb Lanier, Police Chief Edsel Graham, Police Juror Cade Williams and former Spring Creek Advisor D. C. Brumfield.

Other participants were Kentwood and Chesbrough FFA Chapters, Spring Creek FBLA Chapter and several local business firms.

Special features included the Spring Creek Chapter sweetheart Elsie Jennings.

Hebert Yarborough was winner of the best decorated tractor award in the FFA sponsored parade.

THE CHAPTER GOT A TASTE OF NEWSPAPERS

As a major portion of the FFA WEEK activities for 1979, the Greenfield Central FFA in Indiana wrote and published a four-page tabloid newspaper. It featured articles which members wrote, a few of the articles from the national FFA Idea Booklet, chapter photos and, of course, the great amount of advertising required to pay for the project.

After deciding to undertake the project, the public relations committee made an appointment with the editor and advertising manager of the daily Greenfield paper, the *Daily Reporter*. After the committee presented their ideas to the paper, the editor liked the idea. Some guidelines were drawn up as to the length and content and as to the amount of advertising needed to finance the operation.

FFA members were to write the various articles, choose the pictures, visit the agribusinesses to sell the ads, write the ads, take care of the billing and do a rough pasteup and layout of the tabloid. In return for the work, the paper promised to publish and deliver the paper to 25,000 homes in our total county and let us keep half of all the advertising money.

The newspaper staff was very helpful in getting our paper published. The agribusiness community really bought our ads. *(J. W. McCain, Advisor)*

POTTED PLANTS PROMOTE

The Boys Ranch, Texas, FFA pre-employment lab class in horticulture starts pot plants in the greenhouse several months prior to FFA WEEK so that FFA will have plants for all the ladies who teach in their school. Virgil Harbaur presented a plant to a teacher.

ACTION LINES ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

- Send a birthday card to your advisor's wife.
- Help collect things for your local historical committee.
- Try a loaf of zucchini bread.
- Talk your advisor into getting a new shop coat.
- Volunteer to bring donuts to the officer meeting.
- Pick up the mail and take it to the old folks house every day on your way home from school.
- Learn to play the accordian.
- Visit a cheese factory.
- Surprise your folks with a Thank You note.
- Ride with the veterinarian.
- Visit the library in your little town.
- Make an art piece with scrap metal and the welder.
- Do you have an FFA stocking cap?
- Talk to yourself today.
- Start a collection of something that's just "you"—like roosters.
- Paint a picture on the top of an old paint can.
- How about a peanut butter and banana sandwich?
- Give away your old lunch pail.
- Count to ten after that phone call.
- Be ready.

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Photo by Gary Bye

FFA Members Are Preparing for Progress

By Jack Pitzer

Wayne had just a little smile on his face but inside he was about to "bust open." Pride, yes, and a real feeling of accomplishment. To him it was a whole lot more than the blue ribbon for a classy looking steer.

After all, this was his second year in FFA and two years of studying about beef cattle in vo-ag classes. Then there was the record keeping on his own "herd" —you gotta start someplace, Wayne thought to himself.

And there had been hours of time working with that steer to get it ready for today. Sometimes alone after school; or on weekends instead of a trip to the river. Sometimes Dad would come by, offer a little advice and then move on, letting his son feel the satisfaction of going it alone. Mom might even stop and lean over the fence to see how much progress they were making.

Two little brothers were always around. Guess you gotta admit how much time they put in—helping get down hay, going after things. Plus filling in when big brother was gone to FFA camp and the livestock judging contest.

Preparing for progress? Yes, you'd have to describe it like that. Take Wayne's beef operation. Starting small, with room to grow and progress into the dream—a feedlot operation of his own. That's typical of many. They're into greenhouse work, ewes and lambs, working in a farm dairy, welding, helping a vet, doing landscaping or running a baling rig. They know where they want to go in agriculture and they're working toward it.

Wayne's vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor is a believer in letting students "get in there and do it." He calls it "Learning By Doing"—as in the FFA motto.

"Preparing" is what vo-ag and FFA is all about. Preparing high school students for careers in agriculture and agribusiness—all of those different jobs that are part of agriculture. No question, vo-ag/FFA is preparing students for leadership positions in agribusiness, government, sales, education, farm organizations, livestock or other commodity interest groups.

FFA members should stand prepared to develop their personalities; to compete; to win, to lose; to speak and to vote; to help, to cooperate; to try, to question. Even the first year FFA Greenhand is preparing to smile and have fun, to cry, or to learn from mistakes; to be part of the family, to stand for something.

Yes, indeed, the smile on Wayne's face tells quite a story about Preparing for Progress. Progress for himself. Progress for FFA and progress for American agriculture.

"Preparing For Progress" is the 1980 national FFA theme.

The purpose of a national theme and particularly a National FFA WEEK celebration is to provide chapters an opportunity to get additional publicity or public awareness for their vocational agriculture and FFA programs.

Every week can be an FFA WEEK and hopefully chapters will continue throughout the year to stress their involvement in agriculture, involvement in leadership training, involvement in working together cooperatively and involvement in preparing for future careers. The WEEK comes in February (16-23) around George Washington's traditional birthday celebration.

Promotional materials have been developed by *The National FUTURE FARMER* to aid chapters in conducting effective programs during the WEEK. They are available from the FFA Supply Service catalog.

FFA WEEK materials include the traditional outdoor billboards, posters, placemats, program leaflets, TV slides, seals, pocket notebooks, envelope stuffers, vinyl litterbags, bumper strips, pens, radio spots, name badges, a bulletin board kit and a self-standing display. New for 1980 is a very versatile blackboard-type display sign. You can write on it with chalk—put up announcements in library or FFA can give them for posting feed or grain prices at elevators or announcing restaurant specials.

Some items do not have a date or mention of FFA WEEK and they are particularly useful all year.

An order brochure and order forms were mailed to all local chapters including the How-To-Do-It and Idea Packet. The pa ket gives detailed information about the best way to use WEEK materials and get publicity. It has sections on press, radio, TV, sample scripts and other ideas. It also includes ideas that have worked for other chapters, a clip sheet for use in newspapers and a free poster. Two special program ideas are in the booklet which chapters can use for school assemblies or other groups.

TRAVELING ON HAMBURGER MONEY

The annual Goodwill Tour of Florida state officers was 27 stops in a five-day jaunt around their state.

They traveled in first class style in a McDonald's luxury "Big Mac" coach furnished with a driver to take them "whenever and wherever" on their tour of ag business firms, civic clubs and educational centers.

Purposes of the tour are to give the officers a chance to observe and understand the technology needed for the processing segment of agriculture, and to give officers a chance to explain the role of FFA.

The state officers traveled in style in their own "Big Mac"-mobile.

PUTTING A BOOK IN A LIBRARY

Leaders of the Headwaters FFA in Pennsylvania presented a 50th-year history book of the National Organization to their school library. The hard-bound edition was presented to the library in the name of the chapter.

TAKE ACTION

Send for your copy of "Clearing the Air—A Guide to Quitting Smoking." Its humorous approach will get the message through to any smoker and give them hints on how to quit. Send a self-addressed return envelope to: Office of Cancer Communications, National Cancer Institute, Room 10A18, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

OPPORTUNITY COMES FAST

Brent Ragon, a 15-year-old FFA member from Batesville, Mississippi, learned cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation's Youth Safety Seminar last month in Jackson. After completing the safety courses he boarded a train for home and within hours used what he had learned in saving the life of a fellow passenger.

Brent, a sophomore member of South Panola FFA used his newly acquired CPR skills to restore life to 34-year-old John Whitney of Metairie, Louisiana, who received a severe electric shock on board the train.

Mr. Whitney said he was coming out of the bathroom on the Amtrak train when the train rocked throwing him off balance. "I grabbed onto the doors of the bathroom, and that's when I felt it. I just hurt all over."

Doors on the Amtrak train are electrically powered, operated by the push of a button which causes them to slide open and closed. Somehow when he grabbed the doors holding onto each for balance, he received a severe electric shock.

He made it back to his seat where he told his wife that he had just gotten the jolt of his life and was really hurting. Then he passed out and stopped breathing.

Mrs. Whitney got up to find help and frantically asked if anyone on board knew CPR.

Brent, sitting two rows in front of the Whitneys, answered her plea.

He found Mr. Whitney without pulse or breath. Then Brent went into action using the CPR techniques he had learned during the two previous days at the safety seminar.

The CPR procedure involves massaging the heart and getting air into the lungs to get the victim started breathing again.

"I tilted his head back and put my hand under his head. Then I gave him four quick breaths, and then I started compressions on his chest to pump the air out of his lungs," Brent said.

He showed Mrs. Whitney how to perform the compressions so that he could apply the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation required.

"For every five compressions, I gave him one breath." After they performed the procedure six times the victim was again breathing on his own with a restored pulse.

By the time the train reached Batesville, Brent had stabilized Mr. Whitney, who was taken to South Panola Community Hospital where he underwent tests and was released the next day.

Brent had been selected to take the safety courses offered through the Farm Bureau through the recommendation of his agriculture teachers and was sponsored by his local county farm bureau.

Mr. Whitney, ironically, is a CPR instructor himself and owns an ambulance service in Metairie. "But if it hadn't been for Brent," he said, "there would have been no need for an ambulance for me—just a hearse."

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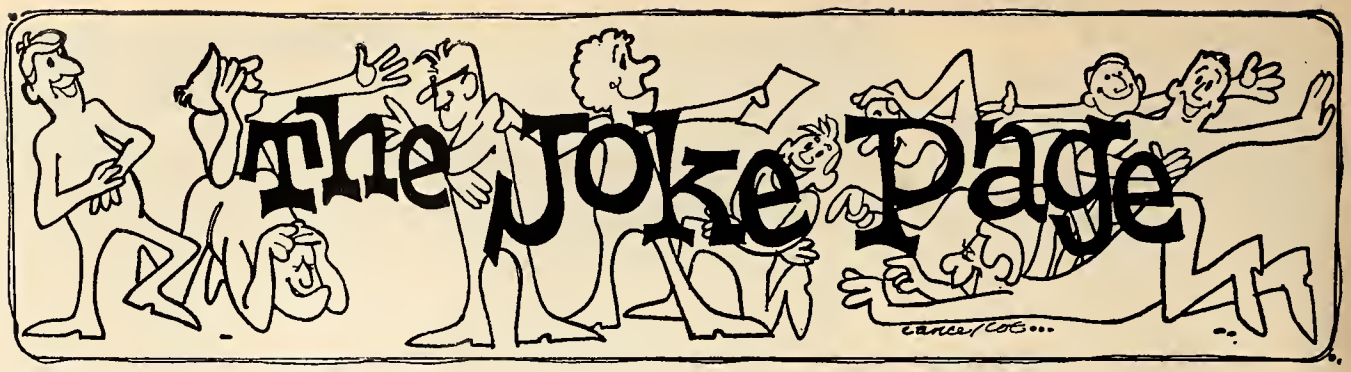

A frugal old farmer was becoming more and more hard of hearing. However, he refused to get a hearing aid because he felt they were too expensive. Instead he took an ordinary piece of wire and wrapped it around his ear.

"Do you hear any better with that thing around your ear?" asked one of his friends.

"No, not really," he answered. *"But people do talk louder."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

A woman entertaining her friend's small son, after watching him struggle vainly, asked, *"Are you sure you can cut your meat?"*

"Oh, yes," he replied, without looking up from his plate, *"lots of times we have it just as tough as this at home."*

Tina Carrari
Los Alamos, California

A Quaker became angry at a cow for kicking over a full bucket of milk. *"Thou knowest that because of my religion I canst punish thee. But if you doest this deed again I willest sell thee to a Baptist minister and he will kick thee so that thou can never kick again."*

Rich Schleiden
Glen Gardner, New Jersey

Q: How does an octopus go to battle?
A: Well armed.

Steve Finger
Watertown, Wisconsin

Clyde: *"It's easy for you to get straight A's in French. You were born in France and brought up in Paris."*

Bonnie: *"Well, you should get straight A's in geometry."*

Clyde: *"How do you figure?"*

Bonnie: *"You're a square and you talk in circles!"*

Steve Claburn
Corinth, Mississippi

Senator to press agent: *"Well, what do you think of my speech?"*

Press agent: *"O.K., but it reminds me of a long horn steer."*

Senator: *"Oh, how's that?"*

Press agent: *"You have a strong point on each side and a lot of bull in the middle!"*

Robert Fink
Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

Cowboy: *"Was the horse you rented well behaved?"*

Dude: *"Sure was. Every time we came to a fence he let me go over first."*

Barrie Staeden
Chaparral, New Mexico

Debbie: *"The new baby has his father's nose and his mother's eyes."*

Roger: *"Yes, and if Grandpa doesn't stop leaning over the crib, it's going to have his teeth."*

Rick Gingerich
Kokomo, Indiana

Farmer Brown: *"Canada's flooded. What shall we do?"*

Farmer's wife: *"Drink Canada Dry."*

Brian Millane
Ellington, Connecticut

Joe decided one day to cut some firewood, so he bought a chainsaw. The first day he cut one tree. The second day he cut two trees. The third day he cut three trees. The fourth day he cut three trees. The fifth day he cut two trees. Joe assumed something was wrong, so he took the saw back to the dealer and told his story.

The dealer said, *"Well, let's see what's wrong,"* and pulled the rope.

Joe shouted, *"What's that noise?"*

Doug Radomski
Arcadia, Wisconsin

"I realize how hard it is to open your mouth and not talk, Charlie—but try."

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